

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

SEPTEMBER 2008



PEOPLE BUILDING PEACE

A public celebration of the International Day of Peace

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST

We are located:

**Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
(403) 270-7366**

Office hours:

**Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm**

Wed 2 - 6pm

Come out to the “Peace Park” along the Bow River pathway in the West Eau Claire Promenade (near 8th Street and 2nd Ave. SW), the site of the future Calgary Community Peace Pole.

At **1:30pm** a **Peace Walk** along the river pathway will begin near the Olympic Arch at Eau Claire Market.

From **2—4pm** the **gathering in the Peace Park** will include inspiring speeches, world music, a Tai Chi demonstration, children’s activities and peace balloons.

Bring your friends and family! Bring your own picnic.

This celebration is a collaborative effort involving many Calgary peace-focused organizations.



Upcoming Fall Ploughshares events....

Wednesday October 8th—regular monthly public meeting at 7:30pm at Parkdale United Church

Friday October 24th—**Singing for Peace** concert at Parkdale United Church

Saturday November 15th—**Annual Holiday Peace Fair** at St. David’s United Church

Ploughshares Calgary News

Calgary Community Peace Pole Project update

The Calgary Community Peace Pole Committee has worked hard this year on raising funds for the Calgary Community Peace Pole Project, and we thank those of you who have donated time or money so far, for your contribution to the project.

Our initial estimate for the cost of the project when the design was finalized in March was \$100,000. Our City of Calgary Parks liaison helped move the project design through the City's approval process late this spring. At the same time, Marc Boutin Architecture, the Calgary award-winning architectural firm that has donated all their time towards this project, continued their efforts in determining final costs for the project and in securing at-cost and in-kind donations from sub-contractors.

It has been determined that the construction costs for the project will total \$123,000. To date the Committee has raised \$30,000 in donations from individuals, businesses, and cultural, faith and community groups and just over \$51,000 in at-cost and in-kind donations from sub-contractors. That leaves just over \$42,000 that the Committee still needs to raise in order to begin construction on the pole. In addition to the construction costs the Committee is expected to, over time, raise \$8,000 - \$10,000 for an endowment fund to help the City of Calgary cover any maintenance and upkeep costs for the peace pole that might occur in the future.

As a result of looking at the costs, funds raised and funds still required, the Committee has decided to delay construction until spring 2009 and continue fundraising for the project. It was deemed inadvisable to begin construction without the money in place. The Committee will continue to invite donations from groups, businesses and individuals in Calgary and also apply for several additional grants. We would welcome your involvement in this process, including additional donations!



2009 Entertainment Coupon books for the Calgary area are available at the Ploughshares office. Call 403-270-7366 or email office@ploughsharescalgary.ca to arrange to purchase a book for \$40. This fundraiser supports the peace work of Ploughshares Calgary.

Ploughshares National News

Military Muscle – The Conservative defence strategy emphasized the importance of armed power

Excerpt from an article by John Siebert printed in the Waterloo Region Record on August 7, 2008 (full text available at: www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Articles/SiebertRecordAug08.pdf)

Election rumblings are increasing as we get nearer the fall session of the current minority parliament. As the electorate warms up to the idea, it is worth reminding us all to read the fine print in political party platforms.

Following the January 2006 federal election, much attention was given to the Conservatives keeping their five major promises – clean up government, cut the GST, patient wait - time guarantees, child care help and cracking down on crime. Less visible were the few short phrases in the platform on Defending Canada. The government has been disciplined and consistent in implementing most of the nine points in this plan over the past three years. This Canada First vision "to defend our national sovereignty and security" is arguably more far reaching and dramatic than the implementation of the five big promises combined because it reorients how Canada officially views the world and the role of Canadian Forces in our foreign policy.

The Canada First Defence Strategy (released by the Department of National Defence on June 19) describes what the government sees as necessary budget increases for Canadian Forces' personnel and equipment purchases - some already undertaken – and then projects this forward 20 years so the defence budget will expand "from approximately \$18 billion in 2008 - 09, to over \$30 billion by 2027 - 28."

To begin, Canada First is interesting in what it does not say – that Canada, post - Cold war, does not face any immediate or even foreseeable military threat to its territorial integrity....What is potentially revolutionary about Canada First is the embedded assertion of the primacy of military power in the successful conduct of Canadian international relations.

Other events of interest this fall in Calgary

There are many peace and social justice related events that are coming up this fall that might be of interest to Ploughshares supporters—here are several that we are aware of:

- Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace will be holding their second **Peace Café** evening **September 2** with two sessions at 7 and 9 pm at The House Café, 126 – 10th Street NW in Kensington. The topic is “Raising Social Intelligence: The Heart of Peace Education”. Dr. Larry Fisk will offer a participant oriented “workshop” inviting us to consider how we live – both act and be – as broadly social intelligent, non-violent and creative.
- **Multifaith Walk Against Violence**—On April 20 Syed Soharwardy dipped his shoes in the Atlantic Ocean and vowed to take a walk across this country, accompanied by leaders and members of all faiths and denominations. The aim of this Multifaith Walk is to raise awareness about the effects of violence on individuals and on societies. The walkers also wish to call attention to the use of faith as a resource for overcoming violence. The walkers will be passing through Calgary from Sept 4-7 and invite members of the public to join them. *In deference to the holy month of Ramadan, the Walk will be conducted during the morning and evening hours (intermission from 11am to 5pm).*
Sept 4—6am: Walkers assemble at the intersection of 84th Street and 16th Avenue NE and begin the walk towards the city. At 5:00pm the walk resumes until 8pm.
Sept 6—6am: Walkers meet at the intersection of Stoney Trail and 16th Avenue NW.
 2 – 4pm, Eau Claire Market, north entrance (200 Barclay Parade SW – Downtown Calgary) there will be a public discussion featuring faith leaders of Calgary – **Perspectives on Violence and Interfaith Solidarity**. From 5 - 8pm the walk resumes.
Sept 7—6am: Walkers assemble at the Intersection of Sibbald Creek & Hwy #1. At 5:00pm the walk resumes until 8pm.
- Canadian Friends of Oasis of Peace and Community Partners are sponsoring **"See us from your Heart"** - A Presentation and Art Exhibition featuring art created by children from Tulkarem Refugee Camp, West Bank, and Oasis of Peace, Israel on **Sunday, September 7** from 7- 9pm at Canyon Meadows Community Centre (848 Cantabrian Dr. SW). The Oasis of Peace Village is home to 54 Jewish and Palestinian families (both Christian and Muslim) in Israel who have lived and worked together and raised their children together since 1976, in a shared quest to promote equality, mutual respect, and cooperation within the community and beyond.
- The Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary PeaceTalk Speaker Series—**Canada's Duty to Protect Human Rights Abroad: The Case of Omar Khadr** presented by **Gail Davidson, LLB** (Chair of Lawyers Against the War, Founder and Executive Director of Lawyers Rights Watch Canada) on **Monday, September 15, 12pm** at Social Sciences 113. Does Canada have a legal obligation to secure Omar Khadr's release from Guantánamo Bay prison and repatriation to Canada? Gail Davidson will examine Canada's legal duty to provide protection to citizens whose internationally protected rights are being violated by another state, as demonstrated by the Omar Khadr case. She will also examine whether failure to act to prevent and punish violations of a citizen's internationally protected rights, is, in itself a criminal offence.
- Citizens Advocating the Use of Sustainable Energy (CAUSE) is presenting **Dr. Helen Caldicott** (co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Featured in the Academy Award Winning Film *If You Love this Planet*) speaking on **"Nuclear Power is Not the Answer"** on **Tuesday October 7 at 7pm** at MacEwan Hall, University of Calgary.
- Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace is holding an **Alberta Peace Education / Culture of Peace Program Conference: "Peace – One Community at a Time – Development of an Alberta Culture of Peace Program and Alberta Peace Education Strategy"** from **October 23-26** at the Avatamsaka Buddhist Monastery (10th Street and 4th Ave SW). The conference will include workshops lead by Dr. Larry Fisk “Raising Social Intelligence: The Heart of Peace Education” and Bob Stewart “Macroepeace: An Overview of a Canadian Culture of Peace Program” and dialogues guided by the purpose or theme of *an Alberta Culture of Peace Program and Peace Education Strategy*; lead by Richard Shultz, Open Space Facilitator. For more information or to register go to: www.peace.ca/AlbertaAgenda2008.htm.



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What's New In Human Security Research

Excerpts from the August report of the Human Security Report Project www.hsrgroup.org

Small Arms Survey 2008: Risk and Resilience

The diversion of small arms and light weapons is a major source of firearms for criminals and insurgents around the world, underlines the 2008 edition of the Small Arms Survey. Diverted arms shipments—in which arms are redirected to unauthorized end users—can range from small packages of components for civilian firearms to hundred-ton shipments of military-grade light weapons.

The redirection can occur at any moment in the transfer chain and may involve the participation of corrupt government officials. Since 1987, major documented diversions have provided small arms to Afghan non-state groups, Colombian rebels as well as their paramilitary opponents, and unknown—but likely criminal or insurgent—end users in Sri Lanka and Iraq, as well as embargoed regimes such as Somalia and Liberia. The Small Arms Survey 2008: Risks and Resilience reviews the practices of the world's leading arms-exporting states with a view to determining how well they meet their obligation under the UN Programme of Action 'to ensure the effective control' of small arms transfers. While states are not transparent about their compliance practices, it is clear that they neglect post-shipment controls—an important and cost-effective means of preventing diversion. The Survey also reports on the widespread diversion of small arms through leakage from state and civilian stockpiles, finding that this is primarily due to negligence. Many aspects of stockpile security can be improved by relatively low-cost improvements to accounting, monitoring, and the physical security of arms and ammunition. The Small Arms Survey is available at: www.smallarmssurvey.org/files/sas/publications/yearb2008.html

Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Colombia

The role of economic shocks in perpetuating armed conflict has received considerable attention from academics and policymakers. Civil wars have affected more than one-third of the world's developing nations and claimed over 10.1 million lives between 1946 and 2005. Recent evidence suggests that income plays a prominent role in promoting political stability: countries experiencing positive growth shocks appear to face a lower risk of civil war. However, there is little empirical evidence on the mechanisms through which these shocks translate into insurrection. For example, a positive income shock may reduce conflict through the labor market, by lowering wages and the opportunity cost of participating in predatory activities. On the other hand, higher income may promote conflict by raising potential gains from the pursuit of rapacious activities. The relative importance of these two channels is likely to depend on the nature of the income shock, which suggests that different types of economic shocks may affect conflict in different directions, and through different channels. This paper tests this idea by assessing the effect of exogenous commodity price shocks on the civil war in Colombia. Using a unique dataset on local conflict, the authors show that price shocks to labor intensive agricultural commodities and capital intensive natural resource commodities affect violence in opposite directions, and through distinct channels. Full paper available at: www.humansecuritygateway.info/documents/HARVARD_CID_Colombia_commoditypriceshockscivilconflict.pdf

Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly donation of:

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$_____

(please attach a void cheque for monthly donations)

Here is my donation for this year of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended)

Mail (requires \$35 donation)