

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

APRIL 2009



## Making Nonviolence Work: \* *Example from Recent History* \* *Conflict Intervention Training*



Ploughshares' Annual Spring Workshop

**Friday April 17th 7:30pm**

**Saturday April 18th 9am to 5pm**

The Village Park Inn - 1804 Crowchild Trail NW

Our guest speakers/facilitators will include:

**We are located:**

**Parkdale United  
Church  
2919 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
T2N 1C8  
403- 270-7366**

**Office hours:**

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

**Wed 2 - 6pm**



**Dr. Sandra Hoenle**



**Madelyn MacKay**



**Diane Janzen**

Learning about the world's rich nonviolent history, as featured on Friday night with a presentation by Dr. Sandra Hoenle on German Nonviolent Resistance, is a great starting point for nonviolence training.

Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Training lets you explore how nonviolent methods can lessen or prevent conflict—in your daily life, in your community, and around the world. The NCI curriculum was developed by Nonviolent Peaceforce of North America. [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org) [www.npcanada.org](http://www.npcanada.org)

The NCI workshop on Saturday (lead by Madelyn MacKay from Nonviolent Peaceforce) will expose you to a variety of intervention strategies and skills that are used in the types of conflicts that might arise in your personal or public life or in an organized peace effort. You will briefly practice some of the skills, and you will leave with some idea of things people say and do when they are members of domestic or international peace teams. Towards the end of the day, we will structure time for you to explore and determine what your own “next steps” will be.

Full Workshop: \$40 (lunch included)  
Student and Low Income: \$20

After April 3rd: \$45  
Friday evening only: \$12

Register for the conference by contacting the Ploughshares office at 403-270-7366 or [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)

# Ploughshares Calgary News

*The Strangest Dream* was screened in Calgary at noon on Sunday, March 8th at the Plaza Theatre to an audience of around 45. Ploughshares Program Coordinator Diane Janzen and The Very Reverend Bill Phipps commented on the film and shared information on local peace projects and upcoming events. Audience members were invited to sign a petition for the House of Commons regarding NATO's nuclear weapons policies, to be tabled prior to NATO's 60th anniversary meetings in April.

*Film description:* When the U.S. government brought the world's greatest scientists together to build the first atomic bomb, nuclear physicist Joseph Rotblat was among them. But his conscience would not allow him to continue, and he became the only member of the Manhattan Project to leave on moral grounds. Branded a traitor and spy, Rotblat went from designing atomic bombs to researching the medical uses of radiation. Together with Bertrand Russell he helped create the modern peace movement and eventually won the Nobel Peace Prize.



The first Pugwash conference took place in the small Nova Scotia fishing village from which it draws its name. This film brings to light the group's behind-the-scenes role in defusing some of the tensest moments of the Cold War.

The story takes us from the site of the first nuclear test, in New Mexico, to Cairo, where contemporary Pugwash scientists meet under the cloud of nuclear proliferation, and to Hiroshima, where we see survivors of the first atomic attack. Featuring interviews with contemporaries of Rotblat, members of the Pugwash movement and passionate public figures including Senator Roméo Dallaire, *The Strangest Dream* demonstrates the renewed threat represented by nuclear weapons, while encouraging hope through the example of morally engaged scientists and citizens.

Ploughshares Calgary was a local sponsor for the screening of this newly released film by filmmaker Eric Bednarski from the National Film Board of Canada. Screenings of the film are being held across Canada this spring and the film will be shown in New York on the first day of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Both home and school/library use copies of the film are available from the NFB ([www.nfb.ca/strangestdream](http://www.nfb.ca/strangestdream)), contact the Ploughshares office if you are interested in purchasing a copy as a portion of the cost of the film could possibly be a donation to Ploughshares Calgary.

## Reflections from Ottawa—Part Two

*From February 15 to 17, Ploughshares Calgary Program Coordinator Diane Janzen was one of 60 from across Canada who attended a conference on "Women Building Peace" in Ottawa.*

The keynote presentation by Peggy Mason was on the topic "Putting Peace back into Peacebuilding – Can Women Make a Difference?" (Peggy Mason served as Canada's UN Ambassador for Disarmament from 1989 through 1994.)

I really appreciated Peggy's comments on the role of the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, which continues to be an issue of much debate and uncertainty for many Canadians. So far there has been a refusal by NATO to involve the Taliban and other terror groups in a dialogue that would lead to a peace process. It's useful to ask what do we know about how terror groups end? The RAND Corporation has done an extensive study of over 600 terror groups that were active at some point from 1968 to 2006 and they discovered that of those groups who disbanded the reason for this action was either that; (a) they joined the political process, or (b) their members were killed or arrested by local police forces. The least violent and most successful disbanding of terror groups occurred when the groups were transitioned into the political process.

Negotiation is the identification of processes and procedures to find the balance between justice and reconciliation – which is different in every case and cannot be imposed from outside. An external, 3<sup>rd</sup> party, impartial honest broker is critical to the settlement between parties. The more factions that are outside of the negotiation process, the less likely the negotiations are to succeed. Peggy stated that only the UN can implement a multilateral peace framework in Afghanistan, no other entity would be acceptable. Although she feels that the optimum time for a negotiated settlement with the Taliban and other terror groups operating in the region has passed, the current implied shift in US foreign policy that President Obama has spoken about, such as talking with Iran, could open the door for further open dialogue among all parties in the region.

The current Canadian government has stated publically that one of the justifications for Canada's ongoing combat role in Afghanistan is the protection of the rights of Afghan women and girls. It is because of this justification that Peggy feels that it is important for Canadian women to become involved in the debate and dialogue, because going to war is not an acceptable way to protect women's rights. Currently the voices of Canadian women are divided on this issue. Canadian women need to join Afghan women in ensuring that there is a negotiated peace settlement, that they have a place at the bargaining table, and that there is a balance between justice and reconciliation.

# Ploughshares National News

## Meet our Caribbean partner: The Women's Institute for Alternative Development

*Excerpts from an article by Maribel Gonzales for the Spring 2009 Ploughshares Monitor [www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca)*

Annual murder rates in the Caribbean—at 30 per 100,000 inhabitants—are higher than in any other region of the world. The Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) in Trinidad and Tobago, a longtime partner of Project Ploughshares, has been a vigorous campaigner against gun violence in the Caribbean. WINAD's beginnings, however, had little to do with guns. "We had a concern about succession planning in the women's movement," says Folade Mutota, community activist and one of the 11 women who founded WINAD in 1999.

WINAD's objectives include promoting respect for women's human rights; developing initiatives to end discrimination against women and encourage collective action by women; implementing initiatives for social and political transformation; and developing alternative learning and social institutions.

WINAD has worked on community, national, regional, and international fronts to research gun violence, raise awareness, campaign for better gun laws, and push for stronger regulation of the global arms trade. Whether initiating community dialogues in Port of Spain's "hot spots" of gun violence, convening national and regional meetings, or forming part of Trinidad and Tobago's official delegation to UN meetings on small arms, WINAD displays leadership in bringing together key civil society and government players for discussion and further action.

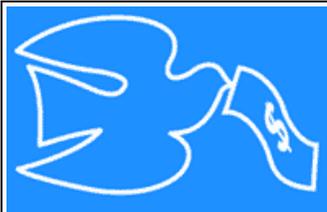
## Program Updates - *from the February Ploughshares E-Newsletter*

### Canadian Military Exports reporting

On February 10, Executive Director John Siebert and Senior Program Associate Ken Epps met in Ottawa with officials from the Export Controls Division and Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to discuss Project Ploughshares recently-published "On the Record" audit of Canada's latest military exports report. Following a summary presentation on the audit and its recommendations, the meeting occasioned a collegial and open discussion with the officials, especially on options to make the government report more complete and transparent.

### Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

Ken Epps was in Geneva on February 21-25 with other representatives of the non-governmental ATT Steering Committee to meet with Geneva-based diplomats. The Committee advocated for strong ATT principles in advance of the UN Open Ended Working Group session on an ATT scheduled for March 2-6 in New York. Ken also participated in the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) seminar on February 24, "Promoting Discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty." UNIDIR is implementing a European Union-funded project to engage many Southern states, regional organizations and civil society groups in regional meetings on an ATT over the next 15 months.



## Conscience Canada—2008 Tax Season Campaign

**Conscientiously object to military taxation through the Peace Tax Trust Fund:** Directing the military portion of your taxes (or a symbolic portion) into Conscience Canada's Peace Tax Trust Fund sends a message to the Canadian government that you want your taxes to be used for peace, not war. The money is held in trust for you and will be returned to you upon your request (for any reason).

The 2008 Peace Tax Return is available from Conscience Canada, including for the first time an electronic version at: [www.consciencecanada.ca/eptr/](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/eptr/)

Insisting that our taxes be used to build peace directly, through nonviolent peace-building measures, and refusing to pay for militarism, is one way we can help turn the tide and make our voices heard.

Project Ploughshares Calgary has a copy of Conscience Canada's *Work for Peace: Stop Paying for War* a DVD on conscientious objection to military taxation, by award-winning director/producer Sarah Zammit. Contact the office if you would like to borrow it or view it on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/user/raksid](http://www.youtube.com/user/raksid)

**CONSCIENCE CANADA** has worked since 1978 to increase Canadians' awareness of the connection between taxes and war, divert taxes away from war, support creative nonviolent conflict prevention and resolution, and promote conscientious objection legislation.



## Project Ploughshares Calgary

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### Drums for Diversity: Voices for Change.

For a couple of hours on March 18th the University of Calgary's halls were alive with music as the U of C's Stop Racism/March 21st Committee' celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. To symbolize that we are one people, although we may come from diverse corners of the earth, a dozen dissimilar musical groups began playing, singing and drumming in different locations on campus at 11:30am and converged with a glorious concert in Mac Hall at 12:30pm. Music styles ranged from classical, folk, rap, to the Motown sound of Gary Martin and the Heavenly Blues, with plenty of drumming thrown in. Buttons stating, 'Look Within, Not at the Skin' were handed out as the enthusiastic musicians shared the joy of diversity with an appreciative audience.

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my donation for 2009 of:

\$35  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended)

Mail (requires \$35 donation)

Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Sally Hodges, Joan Hedstrom & Larry Kennard for their work writing and editing this issue.

## Upcoming Events

### April 2, 7 pm - Judy Rebick book launch - *Transforming Power: From the Personal to the Political*

The Old Y Centre for Community Buildings (223 12 Ave SW) tickets \$10 at the door, 100% Calgary\$ accepted

The Arusha Centre, the Women's Centre and other local sponsors welcome the author, feminist, activist and rabble rouser Judy Rebick to tell the story of how, in the wake of decades of destructive politics, new pathways of social change are being forged around the world: <http://transformingpower.ca/>

### April 7, 5-7pm - The UN Peacebuilding Commission: Can New Approaches Bring New Results?

Husky Oil Great Hall, The Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary

Carolyn McAskie Former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support

The UN's new Peacebuilding Commission is an interesting experiment designed to address the gap in the ability of the international community to support countries after the peace agreements are signed.

### April 7, 7pm - Film Screening of *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*

Plaza Theatre (1133 Kensington Road NW) Hosted by Amnesty International - Calgary, admission is by donation.

Directed by Peter Raymont, the film is an exploration of exile, memory, longing and democracy, as seen through the life experiences of writer Ariel Dorfman (cultural advisor for Chile's Salvador Allende socialist government).

### April 14, 7:30pm - Film Screening of *Myths for Profit: Canada's Role in Industries of War and Peace*

Wickenden Hall of the Unitarian Church (1703 1st St. NW) Free event hosted by Arusha & the Council of Canadians.

### April 16 - Book Discussion of *The Translator* by Daoud Hari

Pick up a copy of this book if you're interested in joining Amnesty International - Calgary for a discussion about this book and Darfur. Please RSVP to Vanessa MacKinnon at [vanmackinnon@gmail.com](mailto:vanmackinnon@gmail.com).

### May 1, 8:30am - 5pm - Encounters with Social Justice, Living the Vision - Third Annual

Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary More info and register at: [www.fsw.ucalgary.ca/encounter](http://www.fsw.ucalgary.ca/encounter)

Come spend a day in conversation with other concerned community members, academics, students and activists, and learn how each of us faces social injustice - and what we are doing about it. Bring your own bag lunch and a snack to share.

### May 4, 7:30pm—Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World

Play at Martha Cohen Theatre, purchase tickets at the door (Adults \$20 Students \$10)

Photo exhibition at the St. Mary's University College Midlands Building (14500 Bannister Road SE) April 15 – May 28.

St. Mary's University College is partnering with Alberta Theatre Projects and Masters Gallery for *Speaker Truth to Power*.

For more info: 403-254-3724 or [www.stmu.ab.ca](http://www.stmu.ab.ca).