

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

APRIL 2011



Wednesday April 13, 2011, 7:30 pm  
Parkdale United Church

## Word from Africa: The Effectiveness of Peacebuilding in Refugee Camps

Jane Lawson has completed her M.A. in Peace Studies at Royal Roads University. Jane spent 7 months working and doing research in refugee camps in Uganda and Liberia, and will speak to the effectiveness of peace programs in refugee camps and their effect on peacebuilding in post-conflict communities. Please join us for a thought-provoking presentation!



We are located:

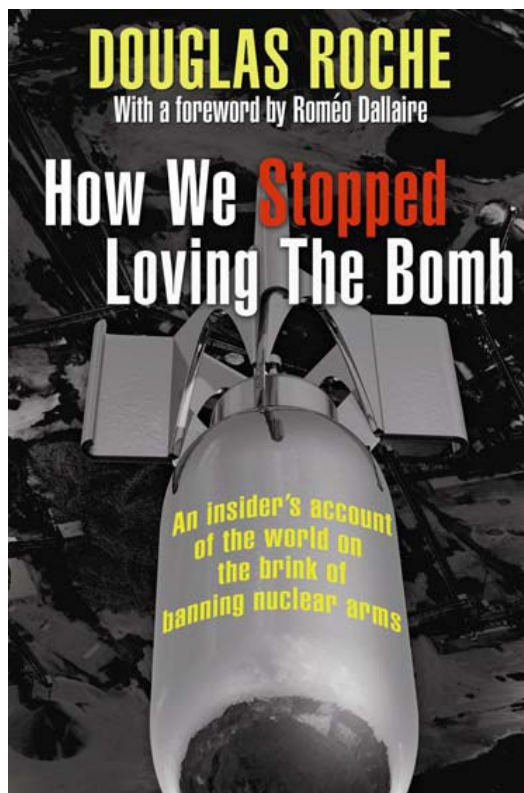
Parkdale United Church  
2919 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
T2N 1C8

403- 270-7366

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thurs  
9:30am - 2pm

Wed 2 - 6pm



Wednesday May 11, 2011, 7:00 pm  
Parkdale United Church  
Douglas Roche, O.C. - Book Launch

(This presentation will be followed by a 15 minute meeting - Project Ploughshares Calgary AGM)

You are warmly invited to attend this event, as retired **Senator Douglas Roche** discusses the newly re-energized push for nuclear Abolition.

While many nuclear powers continue to cling to their instruments of mass murder, public opinion is building in favour of a global ban.

Former Canadian UN Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, a leading authority on nuclear disarmament and nominee for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, writes about the people, the issues, and the ideas behind this new peace movement.

Using a 2010 UN conference in New York City as his jumping off point, Roche takes us behind the scenes to describe the many diplomats, members of NGOs, and individuals who have come together to push for peace.

**DOUGLAS ROCHE, O.C.** was Canada's UN Ambassador for Disarmament from 1984 to 1989, serving as Chairman in 1988. He is an author, parliamentarian and diplomat, specializing throughout his career in peace and human security issues.

# Ploughshares Calgary News

## Project Ploughshares Spring Workshop—May 27-28, 2011 Moving from Fear to Trust: Building Compassion and Community with Janyce Konkin of Initiatives of Change and James Nguen, B.A., Sudanese Community of Calgary

Join us for this interactive workshop on trustbuilding, focusing on values and honest conversation. The Western world has had a tendency to focus on individualistic ways of dealing with relationships and community, as opposed to many societies in the Global South that are collectivist in nature. This workshop will give us the opportunity to explore both approaches and to consider whether we can use elements of both in building a new paradigm that works for all people. Please send a message to Karen at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca if you would like a copy of the brochure for this workshop.



## Volunteers

**Volunteer Meet and Greet, Tuesday April 12, 2011**

**Parkdale United Church Conference Room, 6:00 - 7:00 pm**

We are happy to report that we have several people interested in volunteering for various upcoming events! We are planning to hold a Volunteer Meet and Greet on the above date. This will be a very informal event, and those interested in volunteering will be given a Volunteer Manual for their information that outlines roles and responsibilities of Project Ploughshares Calgary volunteers. Everyone is welcome!

## Donations

Donations from individuals in March were very good at \$2275! Thank you so very much! We are keeping our heads above water. From organizations we received only \$130. To others of you, **SPRING IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUPPORT FOR PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY.** April is spring! It is now time to do your part for peace. We look forward to you joining us again in this adventure of bringing a peace perspective to Calgary.

## An Evening with Vandana Shiva, March 9, 2011, University of Calgary

Project Ploughshares was a partner in this event, which was well attended despite the fact that it turned into An Evening Without Vandana Shiva, as one of the alternate presenters, Paul Hughes, humorously pointed out in his talk. Unfortunately, Dr. Shiva was turned back at the border due to a visa issue and was not able to attend this talk nor the Calgary Peace Prize dinner which was being held in her honour as the recipient of the Calgary Peace Prize of 2011.

The event, attended by some 800 Calgarians, would have been lauded by Dr. Shiva as a truly grassroots effort that honoured her perspectives on agricultural sustainability, eco-feminism and the importance of grassroots democracy. With only a few hours to save this event in the absence of Dr. Shiva, the Calgary community pulled together a panel of exemplary speakers, proving that we are a very capable and creative community in the face of adversity! Speakers represented groups such as the Calgary Food Policy Council with Paul Hughes, Slow Food Calgary, with Kris Vester, the Calgary Centre for Global Community with Kelly Dowdell, and included Hugo Bonjean, author of "A People's Power", due to launch this coming week, as well as Wade Sirois, chef at Forage/Infuse Catering, Chris Turner, author, and Sorada Eastham, who worked with Vandana Shiva's organization Navdanya last summer as an intern of the Irma Parhad Programme of the University of Calgary. The speakers shared a wealth of information about sustainability practices and the importance of working on grassroots initiatives as a community, and encouraged the audience to support local farmers by purchasing locally-produced food.



## Nuclear Energy and Weapons: Uncontrollable in Time and Space

Alyn Ware - 23 March 2011

Huffington Post - [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alyn-ware/nuclear-energy-and-weapon\\_b\\_839634.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alyn-ware/nuclear-energy-and-weapon_b_839634.html)



The earthquake and tsunami in Japan devastated a whole region. Radioactive emissions from the damaged nuclear reactors are very serious, and have already contaminated food and water, prompting a ban on food exports from four prefectures and a government warning not to give Tokyo tap water to babies. The crisis could impact human health and the environment on an even wider scale -- across Japan and around the globe.

Whether or not the brave technicians in Fukushima are successful in containing the bulk of the radiation in the six reactors, the message is clear: natural disasters and accidents will happen. If it can go wrong sooner or later it will go wrong, and Murphy's law and nuclear energy do not mix.

In Japan, the fear of radiation spreading is connected to the memory of the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki over 65 years ago. Over 100,000 people died from radiation exposure -- nearly as many as from the blast. The genetic effects continue down through the generations.

Japan's nuclear crisis has brought back to public consciousness the basic truth that the effects of nuclear disasters -- whether from nuclear energy or nuclear weapons -- are uncontrollable in time and space.

Current events at Fukushima remind us of the negligence of nuclear power companies in building nuclear power plants on earthquake fault lines or vulnerable coastlines. But they should also remind us of the even greater negligence of the nuclear weapon states in maintaining their arsenals of 20,000 nuclear weapons -- most with yields over 100 times greater than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, and many on hair trigger alert, ready to launch within minutes. Any accidental, unauthorized, inadvertent or intentional use today (or tomorrow) would have a catastrophic, widespread, unprecedented and unimaginable impact on humanity and the environment.

A recent statement [released](#) by international law experts from around the world, including former judges from the International Court of Justice, affirms that maintaining nuclear weapons and a readiness to use them is not only negligent, but given the dire consequences of any use, also against the law. [The Vancouver Declaration on "Law's Imperative for the Urgent Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World."](#) notes that the use of nuclear weapons would be "contrary to the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law (laws governing use of force in wartime) forbidding the infliction of indiscriminate harm and unnecessary suffering."

In other words, during war one can attack military targets and personnel, but not civilians. One can inflict harm on military personnel, but not such harm that would last long after the conflict is over. In addition, it is illegal even in wartime to inflict long-term and severe damage on the environment. Nuclear weapons, with their uncontrollable blast, heat and radiation effects, could not be used without violating these laws. And if such an act is illegal, the *threat* to commit such an act is also illegal.

Thus, in 1996 the International Court of Justice (a. k. a. the World Court) [determined](#) that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be generally illegal, and that there is an unconditional obligation to achieve the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons through good-faith negotiations.

Since then, failure of the nuclear weapon states to comply has had predictably disastrous results for global proliferation and nuclear danger, convincing India, Pakistan and North Korea that if they can't cajole the nuclear weapon states to give up nuclear weapons, then they might as well join their nuclear club. Others are bound to follow suit.

Until recently, states that wanted to hang onto their nuclear arsenals and their policies to use them argued that such policies were legal by misrepresenting a clause in the Court's opinion. That clause stated that the ICJ could not reach a conclusion on the legality of threat or use in the extreme circumstance of self-defense when the very survival of a state is at stake. So by stating that they would only use nuclear weapons in "extreme circumstances," the nuclear weapon states avoided applying the general ruling of illegality to their nuclear weapons policies.

But they can no longer avoid this. In May 2010, the parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which includes the major nuclear weapon states, affirmed that any use of nuclear weapons would cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and that states must comply with international humanitarian law "at all times." They also agreed that all states must make special efforts to build the framework for a nuclear weapons-free

Now governments have to choose: hang onto their nuclear arsenals, or uphold the rule of law to which they have agreed. They can't do both. We all know which will make us safer. Nuclear possession is a recipe for proliferation and corrosive to international humanitarian law, which, as the Vancouver Declaration says, "is essential to limiting the effects of armed conflicts, large and small, around the world."

The nuclear crisis in Japan has debunked the claims of authorities that their nuclear power stations, built with inferior containment on fault-lines, are safe and fully under control. Before something goes horribly wrong on the weapons front, we must also debunk the claims of the nuclear weapon states that nuclear weapons are safe as long as they are in the 'right hands.'

States including the US take the position that we should just trust them to take small steps towards nuclear disarmament sometime in an indefinite future. That's like trusting the nuclear power industry to police itself and voluntarily phase itself out in deference to public safety. It simply won't happen without a global prohibition enforced by the rest of the world, like the one outlined in the draft treaty circulated by the UN Secretary-General. In 1996, the President of the International Court of Justice called nuclear weapons an "absolute evil." We have already applied international humanitarian law to other inhumane and indiscriminate (read "evil") weapons such as landmines and cluster munitions in order to achieve global treaties for banning them. Now it's time for absolute prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

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**21 March, 2011—Prevent military vehicle shipments to Saudi Arabia: Rideau Institute (Ottawa, ON)** The Rideau Institute is an independent research, advocacy and consulting group specializing in defence policy, based in Ottawa. For further information: Steven Staples, President | t. 613 565-9449 | c. 613 290-2695 email: [sstaples@rideauinstitute.ca](mailto:sstaples@rideauinstitute.ca)

The federal government is being urged to prevent further shipments to Saudi Arabia of military vehicles made in Canada, and to institute an embargo on the export of all military goods to the region during the current political turmoil.

According to a report published by The Washington Post on November 25, 2009, a shipment of 724 light armoured vehicles produced in Canada was expected to be delivered in April 2011 to the Saudi Arabian National Guard. The status of the deliveries is unclear.

On March 14, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates entered Bahrain in an effort to shore up the Bahraini government, which has been facing escalating demands from citizens for democratic reforms. Several civilians have been killed.

Based on video footage broadcast by media outlets, it appears that light armoured vehicles used by Saudi troops were the same type that is manufactured in Canada.

In the 1990s and early 2000s Canada sold more than 1200 LAVs, built by General Motors Diesel Division (now General Dynamics Land Systems Canada) of London, Ontario, to the Saudi Arabian National Guard. "Arms built in Canada should not be used to prevent democracy in Bahrain or anywhere else," said Steven Staples, President of the Rideau Institute. "As more people in the Middle East and North Africa demand more accountability from their governments, Canadians should be very concerned about Canada exporting arms to that region."

The Government of Canada's export control policies are intended to "closely control" military exports to countries "involved in or under threat of hostilities" and countries "whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens."



## **LIBYA: INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU CONDEMNS MILITARY STRIKES AND URGES POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS TO PROTECT THE CIVILIAN POPULATION - 21 March 2011.**

A new historical era opened three months ago with the popular uprisings in Tunisia and then Egypt, the first of the 'Arab spring' season. These rebellions brought hope to millions and youthful energy to societies suffering decades of repression, injustice, inequality, especially gender inequality, and increasing economic hardship. The Libyan revolt was inspired by these largely nonviolent victories, but, as the world has witnessed with dismay, has rapidly become militarized and is now embroiled in a full-scale civil war.

### **No More Armed Interventions**

The western powers' fateful decision to push through the UN Security Council a resolution to authorize military strikes and a no-fly zone has transformed the situation into one reminiscent of the Iraq crisis of 2003. While supporting the objective of protecting the civilian population, in Benghazi and elsewhere, IPB condemns yet more armed attacks by western powers on yet another Muslim country. Have these same powers learned nothing from their disastrous failures over the last 10 years? It is clear that non-military methods have not been utterly exhausted. Were all economic sanctions imposed and enforced? Was massive electronic jamming put into operation? Were all oil and gas sales cancelled? ? and will we ever be told?

### **When Will We Ever Learn?**

Western media fascination with the minutiae of battle tends to obscure historical memory, without which any clear assessment is impossible. Have we all forgotten who sold arms to, and struck energy deals with, Col. Gaddafi in the first place? Do the phrases 'no-fly zone' and 'air strikes' not bring back painful memories of the slide into disastrous occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan?

### **Alternative Approaches**

There is no lack of alternative courses of action. In IPB's view, the most urgent task, and the most effective way to carry out the UN-mandated 'Responsibility to Protect' the civilian population, is to engage immediately both the Gaddafi regime and the rebels in serious negotiations. These should focus, first on a genuine and multi-lateral ceasefire, and then on the foundations of a political settlement based on participatory democracy. The UN already has a special representative in place in Tripoli. Cynical or not, Gaddafi has made a ceasefire gesture ? which could be used as a starting point. Western states, especially the US and the former colonial powers, should keep out. The UN Secretary-General and a panel of highly respected figures from the Muslim world should be invited to take part in whatever talks can be arranged. An offer to call off the air strikes could be used as a confidence-building measure. In the medium-term, consideration should be given to a UN-authorized peacekeeping presence, preferably not composed of western military forces, with a classical peace-keeping (not peace-enforcement) mandate. Why is it that investment in mediation, diplomacy, trust-building and similar efforts is always a tiny fraction of the money spent on armed intervention?

### **Unlocking Creativity**

Arab peoples have shown that they have the courage to break away from past habits and have demonstrated impressive discipline and dignity in confronting their oppressors. The western world should now respond by finding the courage to break with its own past habits, and to apply the enormous creativity of its own societies in the search for new ways of resolving conflicts. Success in Libya - or indeed elsewhere in the region - would offer tremendous inspiration to peoples locked in deadly conflict in other regions.

### **Reversing Course**

It is still not too late for those leading this latest military gamble to pull out of the quagmire that looms ahead. We urge the world to mobilise now against war and foreign intervention, and in favour of negotiated solutions.

What is done in the coming days and weeks will determine the possibilities for a long-term settlement. Foreign bombing only threatens a wider conflagration with unpredictable consequences.

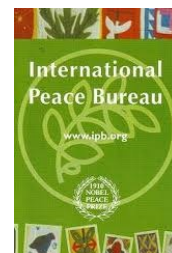
## Wider Aspects

There are all kinds of wider considerations to be explored, and important lessons that need to be assimilated. In particular, that the five permanent members of the Security Council cannot continue to police the world as if we were still in 1945; and that it is time for a global outcry against the massive expenditure devoted to the military system (\$1,500 billion per annum), and in particular the international arms trade, with its accompanying corruption and double standards.

The International Peace Bureau is clear on its own priorities. We need to disarm in order to develop. The basic needs of the population must be catered for as the absolute priority, not as a by-product of 'national security?'. We appeal to the arms-producing countries and industries to urgently start converting military research and production to civilian purposes. The world will never achieve the Millennium Development Goals if it fails to abandon the military-dominated way of thinking and action. We have learned in recent years that democracy cannot be imposed, and that regime change is only a matter for the population itself. The time is now ripe to assist the people in the Middle East/North Africa region in building societies based on the vision of a culture of peace, as hoped for by peoples everywhere. Such a programme was agreed by the UN in the preparation of the International Year for a Culture of Peace in 2000 and the following Decade on a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence that has just come to an end, and that must now be energetically renewed.

The International Peace Bureau is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. We are a Nobel Peace Laureate (1910), and over the years 13 of our officers have been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Our 320 member organisations in 70 countries, and individual members, form a global network which brings together expertise and campaigning experience in a common cause. Our main programme centres on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development. We welcome your participation.

Current project: Global Day of Action on Military Spending, April 12, 2011: <http://demilitarize.org>



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*"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." Gandhi*

**Thank you for  
your support of this  
important initiative!**

## **Friends of the Calgary Community Peace**

If you would like to take an active part in promoting peace in our city, maybe you'd like to consider becoming a Friend of the Calgary Community Peace Pole!

The communal beginnings of this peace pole, with scores of individuals and groups participating in its creation, is an invitation to all to become engaged in making Calgary and the world more peaceful.

### **Yearly Subscription: (Tax receipts given for donations of \$20 or more)**

Student/Pensioner:	\$10	_____
Individuals:	\$20	_____
Organizations:	\$30	_____
Additional Donation:	\$	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>_____</b>

Please make cheques payable to Project Ploughshares, Parkdale United Church, 2919—8 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8  
(In the memo line, please note 'Peace Pole')

**Project Ploughshares Calgary**



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office@ploughsharescalgary.ca  
 www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

Special thanks to Karen Huggins, Larry Kennard and Sally Hodges for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

**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 2010 of:

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

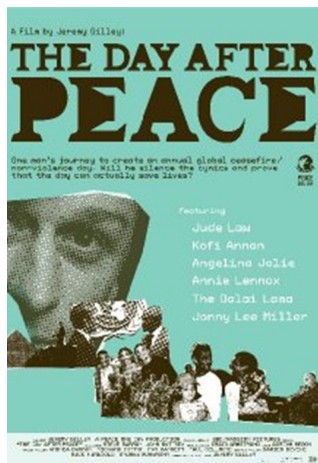
(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

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 (with \$35 donation)

**Calgary Peace Events**

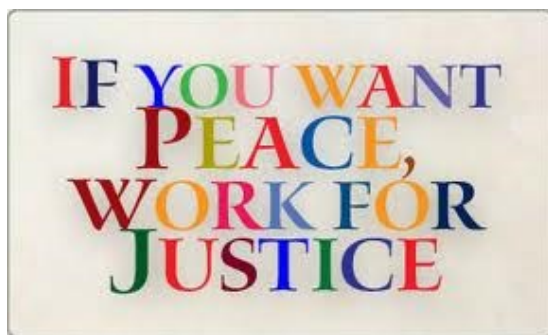


**Friday May 6, 2011**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Film Night!**  
**Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association South Social Room**

We are planning to show the film **"The Day After Peace"**, an award-winning film featuring Jude Law, Angelina Jolie, Kofi Annan, Annie Lennox and the documentary maker Jeremy Gilley. This is a truly inspiring film about the inaugural International Day of Peace and how it came about. Please join us—snacks will be available for purchase. Suggested donation—\$10. This is a fundraising event for the Calgary Community Peace Pole.

**Saturday April 2, 2011, Social Justice Encounter**  
**John Dutton Theatre, Central Library, 9 am—4 pm**

Join the Social Work Students Association from the University of Calgary for a day of interactive sessions discussing different aspects of social justice issues that people face every day. Sessions include: Rights, Religion and Revolution, Women and Social Justice, Eliminating Domestic Violence, as well as a photo exhibit entitled Women's Perspective on Poverty. Refreshments will be provided. There will also be a **Social Justice Non-profit Resource Fair (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, North) from 10 am -3 pm**. Be inspired by the amazing range of resources available in our community as they relate to social justice issues. **No registration required for this event.**



**Monday April 4, 2011, Refugee Rights Day, 6—8 pm, Professional Faculties 4259, U of C**

April 4, 1985 is the day the Supreme Court of Canada commemorated that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the right of the refugee claimants in Canada to life, liberty and security of the person. Citizens for Social Justice celebrates the 26th anniversary of Refugee Rights Day at the University of Calgary. Various experts will be speaking about the possible threats to refugee rights. Learn how we can protect Refugee Rights in Canada! Speakers: **Linda McKay-Panos**, Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre; **Sultana Assar**,

Resettlement and Integration Services Coordinator, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society; **Hieu Van Ngo**, Chair, Ethno Cultural Council of Calgary. **RSVP: cfsjcalgary@gmail.com or 403-402-4812 (Hiroko)**

## April 9, 2011, Canadian Day of Action to end the war in Afghanistan

The Canadian Peace Alliance and the Collectif Échec à la guerre are calling for a Pan-Canadian Day of Action on April 9, 2011 to demand an end to the war in Afghanistan and to bring Canadian troops home now.

The stand we need to uphold in the anti-war and peace movements in Canada is to oppose the use of force to settle conflict between nations and peoples work to create an anti-war government in Canada and support all those who are trying to do the same in their countries.



## Global Day of Action on Military Spending (APRIL 12)

More and more groups are signing up to join the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (APRIL 12). Please find here our [GDAMS newsletter for December 2010](#), which has a special focus on Northeast Asia. Please share it with your networks. Remember to keep us posted on your plans for GDAMS

actions! See map of actions, videos, background docs etc. at our dedicated website: <http://www.demilitarize.org>

## Win \$500! Arusha Song of Social Justice

As part of the Calgary Folk Music Festival's songwriters contest Arusha will award \$500 their favourite song on the topic of social justice. DEADLINE: March 31, 2011 11:59 PM. ENTRY FEE: \$20 Adult \$15 Youth

Apply online! <http://driveit.clickspace.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/DriveItShop.woa/wa/default?orgId=1000481> Download & print entry form and mail or drop off with a CD and cheque to:

Calgary Folk Music Festival  
414 Memorial Dr NE

Ship & Anchor Pub  
534 17 Ave SW

For more information contact [johanna@calgaryfolkfest.com](mailto:johanna@calgaryfolkfest.com) or phone 403-233-0904



## Wednesday June 8, 2011—Project Ploughshares Public Meeting— 7:30 pm

Join us for a film evening and discussion. Look for details in next month's newsletter!



Consortium for Peace Studies  
2011 Summer Institute in Peacebuilding and Social Justice

July 18—22, 2011

University of Calgary

The Summer Institute will be offered as a block week course (35-40 classroom hours), housed in the Faculty of Social Work and open to students from any faculty registered in Graduate and Undergraduate degree programs, **as well as members of the general public.**

The SI will focus on understanding and analyzing selected theories and practice methods of peacebuilding / conflict resolution as seen through a social justice lens. Participants will be given a cross-disciplinary perspective on processes that lead toward progressive, non-violent change as it relates to the individual, society (local / global) and the environment.

The instructor, Dr. Thomas Mark Turay, has been brought back this year by popular demand. Dr. Turay has over twenty-five years' professional experience as a community-based development practitioner, educator and training consultant, as well as over 30 years experience as a peace activist.

For more information, please call Saima at (403) 220-2136, or email [peaceuc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:peaceuc@ucalgary.ca)