

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

MARCH 2013



We are located:

Parkdale United  
Church  
2919 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
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Office hours:

Mon Tues & Thurs  
10:30 am - 3 pm

Wed 2 - 6 pm



## Project Ploughshares Calgary Monthly Presentation Wednesday March 13, 2013 - 7:30 PM Parkdale United Church - 2919 - 8 Avenue NW Restorative Justice Programs for Youth

This presentation will feature the work of Calgary Community Conferencing, which brings together a young person and their victim(s), their respective families and supporters, other key people affected by the conflict and relevant community members to address what's happened and find solutions beneficial to all. Community Conferencing is a collaborative program between the City of Calgary Youth Probation Services, the John Howard Society and the Mennonite Central Committee

A Community Conference is an opportunity for everyone affected by a crime or harmful act committed by a teenager to participate in acknowledging and addressing the harm caused.

The conference is organized and guided by a facilitator. Personal meetings are held with participants in their homes in preparation for the community conference. An agreement is developed and then provided, along with a summary of the conference, to each participant, as well as to the referral source (youth court & schools).

Presenters Cyndie Shouldice and Debbie Nowakowski will be speaking about three different restorative justice programs they facilitate for youth between the ages of 12 – 18.

### Annual Spring Workshop

#### ***Building Alliances for Change: Nonviolent Popular Action***

**April 26, 7 - 9 pm; April 27, 9:30 am - 4 pm, Parkdale United Church**

Project Ploughshares Calgary and NextUp are collaborating to present this year's spring workshop, which will feature Ben West of Vancouver's Wilderness Committee. When discussing building a sustainable future for Canada, climate change, pipelines and the need for greater environment protection dominate the dialogue. Due to the significance of these concerns, acting on these changes can overwhelm individuals. The purpose of this event is to illustrate how the power of community can bring about change.

Friday evening we will show the award-winning film, Walk the Line. This documentary shares the stories and voices of people who will be affected by the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline. Commentary will be provided by Ben West, with ample time for questions and answers.

On Saturday, participants will learn how to campaign and build alliances, facilitated by Ben West and Mike Byerley, along with keynote speaker Jill Crop Eared Wolf of the Kanai Nation. There will be ample time to share experiences and discuss ideas. Join us in creating a space where people can engage with one another in order to bring change to topics important to them.





## Playing with Power: the impacts of and alternatives to violent toys and games Wednesday February 20, 2013, 7:30



Lisa Kathleen of Full Circle Parenting gave an illuminating presentation on children's exploration of power, and spoke to the need that children have to explore their ability to act

in the world, to explore the concepts of fear and love, and to explore what they have control over and what they don't have control over. Children are insightful enough at a very young age to understand that they (and others) have the power to hurt other people, as well as to make other people smile. She suggested that children have less screen time, as a lot of screen time (computer, television, video games, etc.) minimizes concentration time and affects the child's power and their ability to act in the world. There is some evidence that ADHD symptoms increase with increased television watching.

In terms of alternatives to violent toys and media, one of the over-arching themes of Lisa's talk was that children need more time outdoors! Children who spend a lot of time outdoors tend to be calmer, and use their imaginations during play time to create various scenarios. She recommended long periods of outdoor play each day—even during Canadian winters. As Lisa said, "There's no bad weather, just bad clothing."

Lisa talked about our culture's focus on competition, which often has the opposite effect of that which we are trying to instill in our children. Often, competition discourages children. In terms of sports, competition can be meaningful at times, and provide an exploration of opportunity...but she stated that those particular skills need to be built in the child up to age of nine, before competition is introduced.

Conversation is also key to developing a peaceful child. Talk to your child, discuss ideas, talk to them about what's bothering them, discuss feelings, behaviours, different situations. Find out what fascinates your child, and support them in their creativity...as Lisa mentioned, "Creativity is the foundation of synergistic problem solving." Children are empowered when they know they and others have a variety of choices in life, and your interaction with your children reminds them that they DO have choices.

Lisa also recommended asking the following questions: "What are my needs? What are your needs? What can we do that works for both of us?" To work collaboratively within a family, imagination and creative problem-solving skills are essential. You may be surprised at the intelligent solutions your child can come up with when you sit down with them and ask these questions! In all instances, while conversing with your child about peace, violence, competition, hurt feelings - whatever the situation that presents itself, remember to "Look for the deepest truth, in the most loving way possible."



**GLOBAL  
ZERO**

A WORLD WITHOUT  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

### Global Zero

Global Zero is the international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons. All of them. Everywhere.

We understand that the only way to eliminate the nuclear threat – including proliferation and nuclear terrorism – is to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, secure all nuclear materials and eliminate all nuclear weapons: global zero.

We've spent years building a nonpartisan, international community of influential political, military, business, civic and faith leaders – matched by a global grassroots movement that's powered by the relentless creativity, energy and optimism of young people and half a million citizens worldwide.

We're not tilting at windmills. We've got a plan. And it's backed by experts and leading newspapers worldwide. The challenge now is getting world leaders to act on it – and only an unprecedented public movement can create the necessary political will to make it happen.

Today, there are more than 17,000 nuclear weapons on Earth. Together, we can bring that number to zero.

## Ploughshares Calgary News

# Volunteers!



### We'd Love to Have YOU on Board!

We would still like to have a couple of people to sit on committees for a new group, 2020 Vision for Humanity Network. This group is working towards nuclear abolition and building a healthy global society, among other things. One of the committees needing people will be working on organizing an **academic symposium to take place in the fall of 2013**, in partnership with the Consortium for Peace Studies and the Calgary Centre for Global Community. The other committee for which we would like a volunteer is one that is organizing a **Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial Event during early August 2013**. We are planning to have paper lanterns floating on the lagoon at Prince's Island, with Japanese flute music playing in the background - plus other attractions to be decided!

Additionally, we are looking to fill the following positions for the **2013 Calgary Peace Run**: We would like someone who could cheerfully take on the task of **Food and Beverage Coordinator**. The bulk of the work related to this job would take place in August and September of 2013, although there would be some organizing to do prior to that time. We would also like to put out the call now for anyone who might be interested in helping out on any of the committees for the Peace Run, which include: **Volunteers, Fundraising, Draw Prizes, Food & Beverage, and Marketing & Promotions**.

Lastly, we are looking for someone who could help out with the **Spolumbo's Sausage Sale**. We need a volunteer for 3 hours to help out on pick-up day, as well as someone to take the orders.

If you are interested in any of these positions,  
please call Karen at: 403-270-7366  
or email her at: [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)



### Coming Up in the Spring!

Please save the date and look for further details in our April newsletter.

#### Spring Spolumbo Sausage Sale!

Order in April, pick up in early May. Stay posted!

### GIVE TO GROW

*Together*

#### Donations

Donations for the month of February totalled \$370. Please give generously to your local peace organization

so that we can keep presenting interesting and invaluable programming on peace-related topics. We value your contributions, and would like to thank all those who continue to contribute generously to Project Ploughshares. We couldn't do the work we do without you!

"We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate --- thereby, making the present comfortable and the future promising."

~ Maya Angelou



## Include gender-based violence in the Arms Trade Treaty

WILPF has [launched a campaign](#) to include a legally binding provision on preventing armed gender-based violence in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

# MAKE IT BINDING

## INCLUDE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE ATT



The widespread availability of weapons has been a main concern for WILPF since its origin. Currently, no legally-binding international standards exist for the export and import of conventional weapons. The weapons industry is a lucrative business that benefits from the lack of international regulations and transparency. Since 2006, WILPF has been working towards a strong international [Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT\)](#) through Reaching Critical Will. Our goal is to establish an international tool that will reduce human suffering caused by the arms trade.

As with all weapons-related issues, there is a gender dimension to the arms trade. Women are often disproportionately affected by armed gender-based violence. Thus we are calling for a specific criterion in the treaty to **require states not to authorize an international transfer of conventional arms where there is a substantial risk that the arms under consideration are likely to be used to perpetrate or facilitate acts of gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence.** See our [policy paper](#) on including gender-based violence in the ATT for more details.

The [second negotiating conference on the ATT](#) will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York from 18–28 March 2013. WILPF and its partners are working hard to ensure that the final treaty includes binding provisions to address armed gender-based violence. On our [campaign page](#), you can find background material, position papers, and analyses, alongside suggestions for what you can do.

*Reaching Critical Will, WILPF's disarmament programme, will monitor the negotiation conference and provide analyses and advocacy. As with the four preparatory committees and the first negotiating conference, RCW will be posting statements and documents [online](#) and will coordinate, edit, and publish a daily newsletter, the ATT Monitor. You can [subscribe](#) to receive the ATT Monitor each day during the negotiations.*



## New publication on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons

On Tuesday 12 February, **Reaching Critical Will** launched its latest publication, ***Unspeakable suffering: the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.***

This new publication examines the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and is aimed for civil society actors, academics and governments that are interested in approaching weapons negotiations with a humanitarian lens.

The publication is edited by Beatrice Fihn and includes contributions from Ray Acheson, John Burroughs, Lloyd J. Dumas, Ira Helfand, Barbara R. Johnston, Patricia Lewis, Magnus Løvold, Teresa D. Nelson, M.V. Ramana, Felicity Ruby, Tilman Ruff and Masao Tomonaga.

[Download the publication for free here.](#)





## Meteors, nukes and human survival: a wake-up call from Oslo?

Basle, Switzerland By: Alyn Ware Posted date: 18 February 2013 (Excerpted)

*Pressenza is covering the upcoming Oslo conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear weapons between on the 4th and 5th of March and the preceding civil society forum starting on the 1st of March. As part of our coverage Pressenza invited Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and recipient of one of the 2009 Right Livelihood Awards to write about the importance of these events.*

A meteor blasting into the atmosphere over Siberia last week, injuring about 1000 people with debris, provided a graphic warning of the risk of a larger meteor, or even an asteroid, hitting earth. About the same time that the 10 ton meteor entered the earth's atmosphere, an asteroid 15,000 times larger whizzed past planet earth. If the asteroid instead of the meteor had hit us, it could have wiped out civilization just as an asteroid hitting the earth 65 million years ago created climatic consequences that wiped out the dinosaurs. The week prior to the meteor strike Donald K. Yeomans, a senior research scientist from NASA, warned of humanity's complacency about the risk of an asteroid hitting earth ([Beware of Errant Asteroids](#), International Herald Tribune, 9 Feb 2013). Granted, the probability of an asteroid hitting earth is quite low. On the other hand, the consequences of such a hit are so dire, that humanity should not stick our head in the sand. As the science fiction author Larry Niven once said, the dinosaurs became extinct because they didn't have a space program. What might cause the extinction of humanity is our failure to look upwards to the skies.

What's probably even more remarkable is that humanity has also forgotten to look down – to the equivalent threat from nuclear weapons lurking in underground silos and submarines hidden below the ocean surface. Approximately 19,000 nuclear weapons remain in the arsenals of the nuclear-weapons States – over 2000 of them on high alert, ready to be fired within minutes on a policy to launch-on-warning. The capacity to construct nuclear weapons is spreading – nine countries have now built the bomb – and the capacity to acquire nuclear bomb-making materials and technology is also spreading.

So far, good luck as much as good management has prevented a nuclear holocaust. We have come close at least 20 times. One of those occasions is the topic of a feature film "The Man Who Saved the World" due to be released later this year.

There is some media concern and political attention about so-called 'rogue States' like North Korea testing the bomb, or Iran moving towards possible acquisition. Yet, there is very little political attention to the risk of the existing nuclear weapons and the threats to cities, populations, our global economy, the global environment and indeed human civilization if there was a nuclear catastrophe through accident, miscalculation or deliberate use in a conflict.

The majority of countries have supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution which seeks to implement the World Court decision through negotiations on a global treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. The key question on the Oslo conference, however, is whether it will have any impact on the nuclear-weapons States and their allies who already accept that the use of nuclear weapons would create catastrophic humanitarian consequences, but who continue to possess nuclear weapons for deterrence. They say that it is the massive destruction caused by nuclear weapons that acts as a deterrent to prevent others from using them.

In this respect, any similarity to cluster munitions and landmines breaks down. Landmines and cluster munitions were being used in the field in military operations causing humanitarian consequences from such use. Nuclear weapons, on the other hand, are not being used in military operations. They are not being detonated in conflicts. The role ascribed to them by the nuclear-weapons-possessors is not to use them – but to possess them in order to deter nuclear-weapons-use.

The agenda of the Oslo conference appears to reflect this schizophrenia. The opening sessions are all about the unacceptable consequences of nuclear weapons detonations, pointing to the obvious fact that the only way to address this issue is to abolish the weapons globally. However, the final session of the conference, on how to address the risks identified in the earlier sessions, is not about how States can collaborate to achieve nuclear abolition – but is about 'examining the state of preparedness and the needs for adequate humanitarian response to a nuclear weapon detonation'.

Another concern of the Oslo conference is that there is no mention on the agenda of the relevance of international law, whether that be the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the legal imperative to achieve nuclear disarmament or the legal mechanisms available and proposed for eliminating nuclear weapons under effective international control.

Last year the United Nations General Assembly established a forum in which such work could commence – an open-ended working group of countries which will operate in Geneva. The working group was proposed in order to 'develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.' It thus provides the perfect forum to turn the political attention created by the Oslo conference into constructive work for achieving a global treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. The working group has a much more open agenda than the Oslo conference, is ongoing and must report back to the UN General Assembly on progress.

If this process moves ahead successfully, humanity will then be in a much better position to re-focus the \$100 billion currently spent every year on maintaining nuclear weapons, to instead addressing the other core issues for human survival – including climate change and averting an asteroid strike.



## Project Ploughshares Calgary

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

## Calgary Peace Events



### Consortium for Peace Studies Saturday March 2nd

The Consortium for Peace Studies (CPS) at the University of Calgary is extremely pleased to bestow its **7th Annual Calgary Peace Prize** to child soldier turned music

rock star **Emmanuel Jal**. The awards ceremony & dinner gala will take place at the Red & White Club, McMahon Stadium, Calgary on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 5:30 pm. To purchase tickets, [click here](#). For event details, [click here](#)

**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 2013 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)

## The Social Work Faculty, Consortium for Peace Studies & MCCA presents a new "Peace Potluck Series"

**Date: March 15th & April 12th**

**Time: 12pm-1pm**

**Where: Professional Faculties 4th Floor Social Work Lounge**

**Live Music / Potluck/ Peace talk & discussion with international and local professionals. Everyone welcome!**

Our desire is to foster community and build knowledge around peace building.

Music is a huge vehicle in peace building as such it was a natural choice. The discussion will center around topics such as What is Peace work & why does it matter, what are the complications involved and what does peace work look like in our everyday lives. We will be bringing in a variety of speakers with diverse backgrounds.

March 15th - Musician: I am the mountain (great folk band)

Speaker: Margot van Sluytman- author and poet

April 12th - Musician: Kim Thiessen (folk artist)

Speaker: Karen Huggins from Project Ploughshares Calgary

## Justice Film Fest

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm**

**River Park Church Auditorium**

**3818 - 14A Street SW**

**THE PRICE OF SEX** - Written, Directed and Produced by Mimi Chakarova, 2011

"The Price of Sex is an investigative journey into the underground sex trafficking market where young rural Eastern European women have been drawn into slavery, rape, and abuse as poverty pushes them to leave their hometowns. Intimate, harrowing and revealing, the Price of Sex brings Chakarova face to face with trafficked women willing to trust her and appear on film undisguised.

**Alisa Tukkimaki** is the Action Coalition on human Trafficking (ACT) Calgary Coordinator. She has over ten years experience as both a front line and community development social worker in Calgary. Alisa has worked and volunteered in the fields of homelessness and poverty reduction, domestic violence, immigrant and refugee settlement, and counter-human trafficking.