

**PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY
SOCIETY**

Peace News

APRIL 2018



We are located at:

Parkdale United Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:
By Appointment

**Ploughshares Calgary Society
presents
Mennonite Central Committee's**



**Peace and Justice Work in the Palestine-Israel
region**

When: Wednesday, April 11th, 2018

Time: 7 pm to 8:30 pm

**Where: Parkdale United Church,
Auditorium (upstairs)
2919-8 Avenue NW**

Admission: by donation

PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

Canada's role as a peacekeeper throughout the world began in the 50's when Lester Pearson, Canada's ambassador to the UN suggested that the organization might create a peace keeping force. This force could be injected into a war or conflict area in order to maintain a ceasefire while the respective combatants negotiated an alternative solution to fighting. Canada is known throughout the world for its readiness to contribute troops or support to peace keeping missions and has participated in more missions than any other country in the world. *

The role of the United Nations supplying forces to keep the peace was first suggested by Mike Pearson, (Canadian Prime Minister) when he was serving at the UN as Canada's representative. This idea was not only adapted but has become one of the central fixtures in UN activities throughout the world. Pearson was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for the inspiration and Canada has become the most important and respected player in Peace keeping duties, for the UN, throughout the world.*

*(reference: <http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/war/Peace%20Keepers/peacekeeping.html>)

REACTIONS TO CANADA'S MALI PEACEKEEPING MISSION

Globe and Mail—OPINION

By Aisha Ahmad

Aisha Ahmad is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto, director of the Islam and Global Affairs Initiative at the Munk School and author of Jihad & Co.: Black Markets and Islamist Power

As Canadian troops prepare for their new deployment to the war-torn country of Mali, much has been said about restoring Canada's reputation on the world stage. But on the ground, the restive northern deserts of Mali will present a formidable challenge for our forces. Three key things make Mali the deadliest peacekeeping mission in the world.

To start, most of Mali's armed groups fall into one of two major coalitions: the pro-government Platform and the pro-separatist Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA). Both of these coalitions are comprised of ethnic factions fighting over the spoils of a future negotiated settlement. Although Platform and CMA have officially signed a fledgling 2015 peace deal, the factions within these coalitions regularly fight each other, splinter and switch sides.

To read the full article, please visit: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-canadas-deadly-new-peacekeeping-mission-to-mali/>

Some of Canada's allies frustrated with how Liberals announced Mali peacekeeping mission

By Lee Berthiaume, The Canadian Press

OTTAWA — Diplomats from some of Canada's closest allies are quietly expressing frustration with how the Trudeau government handled this week's announcement that it plans to send military helicopters to Mali.

The news that Canada had finally committed resources to the peacekeeping mission was greeted with relief-tinged applause, but diplomats — speaking on condition of anonymity given the sensitivity of the matter — say the government has failed to explain that the mission is both necessary and that the Canadians will be relatively safe, compared to the thousands of other peacekeepers working across the country.

They fear the government has allowed incorrect information to spread unchallenged, threatening to undermine Canadian public support for what they say is a critical contribution to the UN peacekeeping effort.

To read the full article go to: <http://nationalpost.com/news/politics/liberals-dropped-ball-on-explaining-mali-mission-to-canadians-diplomats>

CHALLENGES OF PEACE AND WAR

A Community Conference
 CO-Sponsored by the Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners (CALL) &
 The Ploughshares Calgary Society
 Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, 4612 Varsity Dr. N.W.

Given conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, as well as the horrifying possibility of nuclear war, it seems appropriate to take stock and consider alternative solutions to serious conflicts. World politics is shifting, requiring the deployment of different strategies in conflict zones. The program will explore shifts in world politics and specific successes and failures in Canadian peacekeeping and nonviolent conflict resolution.

PROGRAM

9:30 a.m. Welcome: George Melnyk, M.C.

Keynote Address: A Return to Power Politics? What Does It Mean for International Peace and Security?
 Rob Huebert, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Calgary

10:15: Q & A

10: 30 Break

10:45 — 11:45 Panel: Perspectives on Successes and Failures

Moderator: Doreen Barrie, University of Calgary

- Major John Vintar, Canadian Armed Forces
- Abe Janzen, Mennonite Central Committee
- Mark Ayyash, Peace and Conflict Studies, Mount Royal University
- Trudy Govier, Ploughshares Calgary Society

11:45—12:15: Q &A

12.15 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00--Introduction to *In Pursuit of Peace*, Madelyn MacKay, Voice of Women for Peace

1:15—2:30-- Film: *In Pursuit of Peace*

2:30—3:00--Discussion

3:00--Concluding Remarks

Conference Presenters

Mark Ayyash is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Director of the John de Chastelain Peace Studies Initiative at Mount Royal University. His teaching and research focus on social and political theory, the study of violence, decolonial movements, as well as culture and politics in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli struggle. In addition to several academic articles, his co-edited book (with Ratiba Hadj-Moussa), *Protests and Generations: Legacies and Emergences in the Middle East, North Africa and the Mediterranean*, was published in 2017. Mark organizes a Lecture Series and the Annual Calgary Peace Prize Ceremony. He has recently developed a Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies at Mount Royal University.

Doreen Barrie is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Calgary. She has written on Canadian and Alberta politics, health care, federalism and environmental protection. She is currently researching issues on water, particularly water markets

Trudy Govier is a founding member and currently Chair of the Ploughshares Calgary Society. She taught philosophy at the University of Lethbridge, retiring in 2012. Trudy is particularly well known for her work in informal logic and argumentation: the 7th edition of her book, *A Practical Study of Argument* was published in 2012. She has also written widely on issues related to violence and conflict resolution, including *A Delicate Balance: What Philosophy Can Tell Us About Terrorism* (2002), and *Taking Wrongs Seriously: Acknowledgement, Reconciliation, and the Politics of Sustainable Peace* (2006). In recent years, Trudy has facilitated a number of Interest Groups for CALL.

Rob Huebert is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary, where his research and teaching focus on Canadian foreign and defence policies, circumpolar relations, and international relations and strategic studies more generally. In addition to numerous articles on these subjects, his publications include a co-edited book (with H. Exner-Pirot, A. Lajeunesse & J. Gulledge), *Climate Change and International Security: The Arctic as a Bellwether*, 2012.

Abe Janzen served as the executive director of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta for 21 years, retiring to Donor and Church Relations in the fall. He has travelled to the Palestine-Israel region multiple times and is passionate about working for peace. Before beginning with MCC Alberta, Abe and his wife served with MCC in Bolivia for 10 years. He is originally from Saskatchewan, where he studied adult education. He blogs regularly at some-messynotes.wordpress.com.

Madelyn MacKay is a peace activist who lived in Calgary in the 1970s and is now living in Nelson BC, where she co-teaches in the Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping program at Selkirk College. Selkirk is the first school in the world to offer this Nonviolent Peace force training for peacekeepers. She recently participated in the UN Commission on the Status of Women with the Voice of Women for Peace delegation.

George Melnyk is Professor Emeritus of Communication Media and Film at the University of Calgary. In addition to his work in Canadian literary history, film history, and Western Canadian identity, he has written widely on peace issues from a Canadian perspective. His work in the area of Peace Studies includes the co-edited volume, *Canada and September 11th: Impact and Response* (2002) and the edited volume, *Canada and the New American Empire: War and Anti-War* (2004). George has also facilitated a number of Interest Groups for CALL.

Major John Vintar has served in a number of positions in the Canadian army since enlisting in the early 1980's. In 2015-16, he was deployed to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, where his tasks included protecting civilians, investigating human rights abuses, supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid, and supporting the conditions of tenuous ceasefire agreements.

Challenges of Peace and War Conference

Event: 05 May, 2018 9:30 AM – 3:30 pm

Location: Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, 4612 Varsity Drive N.W.

Cost: \$25 (Catered lunch included)

Registration ends May 1st

Please mail your registration form together with your registration fee to Ploughshares Calgary Society,
2919-8 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C3

Registrant Information

First Name::

Last Name:

Street Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Food Preference: _____ Vegetarian

(Check One) _____ Gluten-free

_____ No Preference

Comments:



Calgary Peace Prize 2018

JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Join us in celebrating the 2018 Calgary Peace Prize awarded to the **Honourable Justice Rosalie Abella** for her efforts in advancing justice and equity for a more peaceful society.

April 4, 2018

Jack Singer Lobby
Arts Commons
205 – 8 Ave SE

Tickets on sale at mru.ca/peacetickets



Under the patronage of Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Calgary Peace Prize recognizes outstanding individuals from the global community who work towards making the world a more just, safer and less violent place.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Ploughshares Events:



- **Wednesday, April 11th, 2018** 7 to 8:30 pm
Parkdale United Church 2919-8 Avenue NW Auditorium (upstairs)

Peace and Justice work in the Palestine - Israel region

presented by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta, a region MCC has worked in for nearly 70 years.

Abe Janzen served as the executive director of MCC Alberta for 21 years, retiring to Donor and Church Relations in the fall. He has travelled to the Palestine-Israel region multiple times and is passionate about working for peace. Before beginning with MCC Alberta, Abe and his wife served with MCC in Bolivia for 10 years. He is originally from Saskatchewan, where he studied adult education. He blogs regularly at sOMEMESSYNOTES.wordpress.com

Carol McNaughton is the current peace program coordinator with MCC Alberta, a role that encompasses advocacy, community engagement, and coordinating serving and learning programs for youth and young adults. She recently spent a year serving with MCC in Cambodia and has also spent time as a student/intern in the Philippines, Turkey, and South Africa. Carol completed her bachelor's of social work at the University of Calgary and is a registered social worker.

We look forward to seeing you at this informative and educational presentation.

SAVE THIS DATE**WHAT: CHALLENGES OF PEACE AND WAR**

A Community Conference Co-sponsored by CALL and The Ploughshares Calgary Society

WHEN: Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.--3:30 p.m.**WHERE:** Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, 4612 Varsity Drive N.W.**Cost:** \$25.00 Registration ends Tuesday, May 1**Come join the conversation! Catered lunch included.**

Payment via PayPal or Credit Card via PayPal, cash at the door , or mail your cheques to Ploughshares Calgary Society before May 1st, 2018

Questions? Contact Ploughshares Calgary Society: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca**Other Events of Interest Around Town:**

April 4, 2018, Calgary Peace Prize, 7 pm

Jack Singer Lobby, Arts Common

<http://mru.ca/peacetickets>Showing of the locally-made film **Cultivating Calgary's Local Food Resiliency.**April 6, 2018 at the Calgary Unitarian Centre, 1703 1st Street NW

Doors open 6:30

Dessert/Appi potluck. at 6:40

And coffee and tea too!

Film at 7 pm with discussion to follow

Free admission, donations accepted to cover costs.

[Register on Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/pcg-green-sanctuary-film-night-tickets-44127269852](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/pcg-green-sanctuary-film-night-tickets-44127269852)

Singing Our Faith, Jim & Jean Strathdee

April 7, 2018 Choir Workshop; 1-4 pm

April 8, 2018 Concert with Choir; 7 pm

Northminster United Church, 3311 Centre St. N

403-277-0322

Www.northminister.ca



Ploughshares Calgary Society
 2919 8th Ave. NW
 Calgary AB T2N 1C8
 (403) 270-7366

Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Trudy Govier for editing this issue of the newsletter.



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may unsubscribe at any time by just emailing us your request.



We are very grateful for your loyal moral and financial support over the past years. Because of you, we have been able to work toward peace and educate about peace. We ask that you please continue to support us in these difficult times. We have started our donation appeal for 2018. If you haven't already sent in your donation, please consider donating soon. If you have already sent in your donations for 2018, we thank you most sincerely.

Ploughshares Calgary Society

Yes...I am interested in supporting the peace work of Ploughshares Calgary!



- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to make a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | monthly donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | of \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount (Specify) \$ _____ | |

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Donation Options: Cheque PayPal Cash

Make cheque payable to Ploughshares Calgary Society or go to www.ploughsharescalgary.ca to make your payment via PayPal.

**Please mail completed form with donation to:
 Ploughshares Calgary Society, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8**

Please note that we are unable to provide tax receipts at this time.