

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009



**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**

## What I Heard About Afghanistan

**Tuesday November 3rd, 7:30pm**

**Parkdale United Church**

2919 8th Ave NW

Suggested admission \$10

With guest speaker **James Loney** who will share his thoughts on Canada's role in Afghanistan.

James Loney is a Toronto peace activist, nonviolence trainer and writer. As member of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) he has served on violence-reduction projects in Iraq, the West Bank and First Nations communities in Ontario and New Brunswick. He was CPT's Canada program coordinator from 2004 to 2007. In November of 2005, while leading a peace delegation in Iraq, he was kidnapped by Iraqi insurgents

and held for 118 days before being rescued by British and American forces. He was a founding member of a Toronto Catholic Worker house of hospitality where he lived in community with formerly homeless people for ten years. A book he has written about his experiences in Iraq will be published by Knopf in the spring of 2011.



## 25th Annual Holiday Peace Fair

**Saturday November 14th 9:30am—4pm**

**St. David's United Church** 3303 Capitol Hill Cres. NW

Buy unique gifts & seasonal treasures from over 25 vendors working for peace, social justice or the environment.

**Admission \$2—Free for children under 12**

Twenty-five years ago, Ploughshares executive members decided to bring together under one roof the concept of alternative holiday shopping that one of them did by driving around Calgary and visiting different organizations like UNICEF to purchase gifts. Every year since then the Fair continues to be a success for Ploughshares, our vendors and the shoppers! Last year our social justice vendors sold over \$19,000 worth of items to over 600 shoppers at the Fair! Come out again this year to support your long-time favourite vendors or discover something new at one of our first time vendors. Spread the word about the Fair among your connections to increase the awareness among Calgarians about social justice efforts in our city and around the world.



# Ploughshares Calgary News

## Sharing from the NOW conference

The NOW conference held in Calgary Sept 30 – Oct 1 was promoted by the University of Calgary as a conference “to discover new ideas and find real solutions to society’s most pressing challenges. We do this by stimulating discussion, nurturing debate and by opening our doors to the world’s most compelling minds.” This theme was very broad and vague which made it hard to connect the various components of the conference together, and for the conference to have any real concrete outcomes for Calgarians. So it resulted in somewhat disjointed useful thoughts and ideas.

About 500 people attended the conference, attendees were either youth delegates (high school and university/college students), non-profit delegates or academic delegates. The high cost of attending the conference was definitely a deterrent for many from the non-profit sector in Calgary. The business sector was quite well represented. There were several key-note presentations that all delegates attended, and sessions geared to each of the streams of delegates. Several of the sessions for the non-profit delegates were more focused on business rather than non-profit.

The sessions with His Holiness the Dalai Lama were the focus points for the conference – resulting in high levels of security – but also high attendance (~16,000 at the Saddledome). At the Saddledome session the Dalai Lama spoke about peace and compassion, and at the conference session he focused on education. The Dalai Lama spent considerable time in both sessions answering audience questions and the following was his answer to “What do you do when you are fighting for something that you really believe in but it is causing you suffering?”

- before you take action on something study it and think carefully, look at the various aspects involved, and look for possible obstacles - as it is better not to initiate rather than to give up
- if the goal is of benefit to a larger group of people, suffering can be carried, but if the goal is not worthy (just for yourself) then it might be better to withdraw

Another point that the Dalai Lama focused on was that we don’t pay enough attention to our inner values / spiritual moral principles that are secular (and also common to all religions).

Several other speakers spoke of the importance of having inner principles/ morals that we work from (both the personal as well as organizational or national), including Stephen Covey (author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*) who listed these principles as: integrity, justice, fairness, respect, kindness, contribution and development.

F.W. de Klerk (former president of South Africa who engineered the end of apartheid policies there) and Jan Egeland (former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator) both spoke about their personal experiences – the lessons they learned – and said that change is inevitable, we need to adapt to it.

Some of F.W. de Klerk’s Lessons from South Africa

1. accept the need for change, resistance to change is ingrained in all of us
2. avoid the temptation of pretending to change, of developing brilliant new ways of doing bad things better
3. articulate a clear and achievable vision of where you want to go

Some of Jan Egeland’s Lessons

1. we have to set more ambitious goals that in the past (solve crisis rather than just respond)
2. the world must act coherently to put pressure on those actors that are unwilling to act accordingly
3. there is no limit to what we can refrain from doing or neglecting (Africa)
4. we have to have political security solutions (we often respond to crisis with humanitarian solutions only—e.g. giving rape victims blankets)
5. we need to speak the truth in all these situations, through the right voices and the right channels (the wrong countries sometimes lead the right causes)

Points relating to peace and the work of Ploughshares Calgary included:

- de Klerk saying that one of the highlights of his time as president of South Africa was when he gave the order to have their seven atom bombs demolished.
- Dalai Lama encouraging people not to act from very strong emotions as they can lead to rash decisions with negative consequences, instead peace is an act of compassion..
- We need to bring forth new terminology – rather than non-profit organizations or NGO’s, we are organizations that create a social profit.
- We think problem solving is important. We see that war is a problem therefore believe it must be important and thereafter legitimized it. Peace is not problem, so we don’t legitimize studying or working on it.
- Evaluation of peace efforts and conflict is highly situational, there are dramatically different perspectives, each having a piece of truth, and people need to dialogue to understand each other.

Dear Project Ploughshares Supporter,

We celebrate those of you who have let us know your financial commitment to Ploughshares for this year. Thank you for your valued support! Bearing in mind that our target total for 2009 for individual giving is \$16,000, 45 people have donated \$9,400 this year so far, \$4,935 of which has come in since early September. Thank you! **Let's reach the \$16,000 target by the end of the year!** Every bit helps! Ploughshares Calgary used to receive most of its donations in the Fall. We encourage you to donate at this time, because our new annual fund-drive time will start in Spring, 2010. Don't forget you can contribute monthly through a bank transfer system.

Donations in memory of Ploughshares Calgary's co-founder Dr Eric Tollefson are also still welcome.

For your information, we now have the annual AGM report on the website, which gives a summary of our finances and of our proposed '09 budget. You are welcome to receive more detailed statements through Diane at the office 403-270-7366.

See you at the Jim Loney event November 3 and at the Peace Fair November 14. This year is the Peace Fair's 25th anniversary. Let's make the attendance the biggest yet - if you are unable to donate financially to Ploughshares this year, support the peace work of Ploughshares by inviting four friends to come with you to the Fair!

Thank you again for your dedication to peace and peacebuilding. Happy Holidays!

Sally Hodges

## Calgary Events

**Nov 2nd 7-10pm Public Panel Discussion - Omar Khadr and the Canadian Conscience**

**University of Calgary—Science Theatres 141**

**Tickets are available online - \$20 Regular / \$8 Student** <https://netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/SSLPage.aspx?pid=1853>

Dennis Edney, one of Omar Khadr's two Edmonton lawyers, will lead a panel discussion on the case of Canadian-born Omar Khadr's detention at Guantánamo Bay and the upcoming review of his case in the US. Speakers include: Nathalie Des Rosiers, General Counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association; Linda McKay Panos, Executive Director of the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre; and Sharon Pollack, award winning Calgary-based playwright.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall

The Fall of the Wall on November 9th, 1989 reunited East and West Germany and marked the beginning of a new era in history. It was the end of the cold war, the beginning of a fully united Europe, and proof that peaceful change is possible. On November 9, the wall that divided Germany for nearly three decades began to crumble when East Germans were permitted to enter the West paving the way for the unification of the two German states in 1990.

**Nov 9th “From the Peaceful Revolution to German Unity” – Photo Exhibition**

Opening and Reception at the University of Calgary's Fine Arts Deanery, 7 pm

The exhibit will be on display until December 8.



**Nov 10-24 “20 Years – The Fall of the Wall,” German Film Series**

At the University of Calgary's Language Research Centre in Craigie Hall

Schedule available at: [www.ucalgary.ca/lrc/film-series-20th-anniversary-fall-berlin-wall-november-9th-2009](http://www.ucalgary.ca/lrc/film-series-20th-anniversary-fall-berlin-wall-november-9th-2009)

**Nov 17, 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, The Marda Loop Justice Film Festival – Free Admission**

Mount Royal University's Stephen Leacock Theatre for November 17<sup>th</sup> showings and the River Park Church Auditorium, 3818 14A St. SW for November 20-22<sup>nd</sup> showings. Schedule of movies at: [www.justicefilmfestival.ca](http://www.justicefilmfestival.ca)

**Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, YMCA Calgary Peace Medals Luncheon – Reception and lunch at 11:30, Award presentation 12-1pm**

**Cineplex Theatre, 2nd floor of Eau Claire Market (200 Barclay Parade SW) Tickets:** \$25 if purchased and paid for on or before Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, \$35 after. Call 403-531-1660 or visit Member Services at any YMCA Calgary branch to register today.

Since 1991, the annual YMCA Calgary Peace Medals have honoured youth and adults from all walks of life who commit their time to advancing peace in their own communities or abroad.

**Nov 24th The Uprising National Playwriting Competition: Peace, Politics and Society** (Formerly the Canadian Peace-

Play Competition) A public staged reading of the winning entry will be a part of the Downstage Theatre's Uprising festival.

Contact the Consortium for Peace Studies at the U of C for more information: [www.ucalgary.ca/~peaceuc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~peaceuc)



## Project Ploughshares Calgary

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# Ploughshares National News

Below are excerpts from articles in the Autumn edition of *The Monitor*, available online at: [www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca)

## Overlooking the faults of peacebuilding

By John Siebert

Since the end of the Cold War something called “peacebuilding” has gained increasing salience in international relations circles. Foreign ministries, academics, and civil society practitioners have taken up the charge. A range of institutions have emerged to study this new policy frontier, producing in-the-field, evidenced-based this and theoretical-comparative that. Early warning and conflict prevention, more deployments of UN Special Representatives and Department of Peacekeeping Operations, track two diplomacy, mediation, conciliation, security sector reform, and governance strengthening and innovation.

[I attended a] workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, July 9-11, 2009 on “Enhancing Engagement between Civil Society Organizations and (Sub)Regional Inter-governmental Organizations.” The purpose of the workshop was to explore how civil society organizations (CSOs) could work with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations on conflict prevention.

The focus is on operational prevention when the proximate causes of violence—the sparks leading to the actual wild fires of violence—are visible. It’s a timing question. The international community—acting through the UN or regional intergovernmental organizations—often will not respond until the forces of violence are clearly visible. Quiet diplomacy techniques are less useful later in the conflict cycle when violence has broken out or the international community is employing some type of military intervention to stop the violence. The post-conflict period, which requires reconciliation, rehabilitation, and restitution in the violence-affected society, is another prime time for CSO quiet diplomacy.

## Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone

By Ernie Regehr

The entry into force on July 15, 2009 of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Pelindaba, was largely ignored by the world’s mainstream news media. That’s too bad. It is a significant development and a further nudge toward a world without nuclear weapons.

The Pelindaba Treaty, named after South Africa’s central nuclear research complex, confirms key provisions of the NPT, including the pledge of all signatories not to develop, produce, or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, as well as the commitment to enter into comprehensive safeguard agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify each state’s non-nuclear-weapon status (21 states have yet to conclude such agreements). The Treaty prohibits the testing of any nuclear explosive device and, in effect, fulfills the basic conditions of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty on the African continent.

With the entry-into-force of the Pelindaba Treaty, all sovereign territories in the southern hemisphere, plus Antarctica, are now in legally binding nuclear-weapon-free zones.

**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)