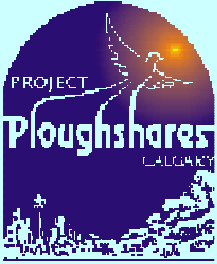


PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

MAY 2010



We are located:

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

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm
Wed 2 - 6pm

Small Arms, Big Impact: Addressing Armed Violence in Communities

Free Screening of Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker Shelley Saywell's

Devil's Bargain: A Journey into the Small Arms Trade

Narrated by Kiefer Sutherland, followed by Q&A

Friday May 14th, 7-9pm

Professional Faculties Rm128 University of Calgary

Co-sponsored by the Consortium for Peace Studies, University of Calgary

"Small arms are the real weapons of mass destruction, killing more than half a million people a year, spreading like a disease and destabilizing entire regions. Devil's Bargain examines the ways in which guns slip from legal to illicit markets...and we discover a largely unregulated trade in what has become the globalization of death."



There is one gun for every ten people on earth; 8 million small arms are manufactured yearly; every year enough bullets are made to kill every human twice. Learn about the international movement of small arms and the impact of increased armed violence on development and community safety, drawing on examples from Canada/Calgary and the Caribbean at a workshop on

Saturday May 15th, 9am - 4:30pm

Bow Cliff Senior's Centre - 608 Poplar Road SW Calgary

Speakers and panelists for the workshop include: ***Maribel Gonzales** (Project Ploughshares) ***Ken Epps** (Project Ploughshares) *a speaker from the **Caribbean** ***Melanie LaPointe** (Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter) ***Ric McIver** (Calgary Alderman and member of the AB Government's 2007 Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force) ***Paras Persad** (Centre for Newcomers, Effective Community Responses to Criminal Gang Involvement of Immigrant Youth Project)

The Friday event will be free, donations are welcome, no RSVP required.

Saturday Workshop (lunch and refreshment breaks included):

Regular Fee: \$40 After May 10th: \$45 Student / Low Income: \$20

For more information or to register contact the Ploughshares Calgary office.

These events are jointly sponsored by Project Ploughshares and Project Ploughshares Calgary.

Ploughshares Calgary News

Book launch with Dr. Arthur Clark prior to Ploughshares Calgary AGM **Wednesday June 9th 7:00pm at Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)**

Ploughshares is partnering with the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary for an event where Dr. Arthur Clark will be sharing from his new book, *The ABCs of Human Survival*, in addition to providing an update on the status of the Calgary Centre for Global Community and a short workshop on global citizenship.

The ABCs of Human Survival examines the effect of militant nationalism and the lawlessness of powerful states on the well-being of individuals and communities; and the essential role of global citizenship in that dynamic. Based on analysis of world events, Dr. Clark presents militant nationalism as a pathological pattern of thinking that threatens our security, while emphasizing effective democracy and international law as indispensable frameworks for human protection. Within the contexts of history, sociology, philosophy, and spirituality, *The ABCs of Human Survival* calls into question the assumptions of consumer culture and offers, as an alternative, strategies to improve overall well-being through the important choices we make as individuals.

Following Dr. Clark's presentation, Ploughshares Calgary will hold a brief Annual General Meeting for supporters and interested individuals, sharing a summary of the previous year's activities in addition to the 2010 budget.

The Art of Peace! The twenty people attending Ploughshares Calgary's April 14th monthly public meeting experienced a taste of what children attending Peace Camps in Calgary for the past 5 years have done. Fif Fernandes and Carolyn Pogue interspersed descriptions of activities with laughter yoga exercises and inspiring stories of the kids they have met through running Peace Camps—both here in Calgary, and for Fif in Uganda. The room was decorated with drawings and fabric quilt squares made by children attending peace camps, including one captioned “goodbye guns, hello happiness.” For those of you who missed the event, a short CBC video on Peace Camps is available at: www.youtube.com/user/theartofpeacecamps. If you are interested in starting up a Peace Camp please go to www.theartofpeacecamps.com for a handbook and contact information, or let Ploughshares know your interest (270-7366) and we can put you in touch with a support group. If you would like to simply be part of a support group for these fun and worthwhile ventures let us know!

Garage Sale Ploughshares Calgary will be participating in the Silver Springs 2010 Parade of Garage Sales on **Saturday June 12th 9am—4pm**, thanks to one of our supporters living in that community who will host us. Please start saving next-to-new items and contact us on where and when to drop off these items. Also consider helping out by volunteering!

Follow-up to Ploughshares' January Monthly Public Meeting on US Iraq War Resisters

As mentioned in our February newsletter, a small group has formed to support a US Iraq war resister living in Calgary with his young family. If you are interested in making a donation toward covering legal fees or emergency needs for this family please read the fundraising letter available at www.calgarywarresisters.org or email calgarywarresisters@gmail.com for more information.

Billeting Help Needed Do you have a guest room to offer an out-of-towner for the upcoming Ploughshares workshop, Friday night May 14, Saturday night May 15? We do not have numbers yet, but it is possible we will need this help. Please let the office know or call with questions 403-247-1653. Many thanks.

Letter from Sally Hodges, Chairperson of Project Ploughshares Calgary

Dear Ploughshares Supporters,

As mentioned last year, May/June is our new time for individuals' annual giving to Ploughshares. The switch is to help our cash flow at this time of year. So, I invite you to remember us generously at this time. We truly appreciate the 57% of our income that comes from individuals such as you! We are dependent upon it and we thank you very sincerely.

Project Ploughshares Calgary provides Calgary with many programs that no other group provides. Where else in Calgary will you learn about the push for an international Arms Trade Treaty, positive movement towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, Iraq war resisters, the Calgary Peace Pole project, or a bully-proofing puppet program in schools?

With your contribution to Ploughshares Calgary you are joining a team of people who are dedicated to bringing peace to the world in many ways. Welcome and thank you for joining us.

U.S. Policy and the Arms Trade Treaty

Excerpts of Executive Summary of this report by Rachel Stohl, www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/WorkingPapers/wp101.pdf

Unlike their nuclear counterparts, conventional weapons have been relatively unregulated in international forums. Piecemeal attempts have been made to establish controls over the international arms trade to close dangerous loopholes that have allowed arms to flow to human rights abusers and terrorists, perpetuate conflicts, and undermine development. Because the global trade in conventional arms is a necessary and integral part of global security and international commerce, States have been hesitant to place conditions on and criteria for the transfer of conventional weapons. Global agreements on conventional arms have existed for decades, but it is only in the past 15 years that strides have been taken to develop international standards to regulate the trade in conventional weapons. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is currently being developed under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) to do just that.

Because it plays a significant role in the global arms trade, the United States (US) has much at stake in the proposed Arms Trade Treaty. The US is the world largest arms exporter – making nearly 70 percent of new global arms sales in 2008 – and provides weapons through a variety of government and commercial programs. Control over these transfers falls to many different government agencies, with oversight responsibility given to the US Congress.

The US position on the ATT is rooted in the political, social, and cultural contexts in which arms trade issues operate in the US. The US views arms exports as a means to further political, security, and diplomatic objectives and has a strong political and cultural history around weapons. The overarching policy framework governing US arms exports today is Presidential Decision Directive 34, established by President Bill Clinton in 1995, which contains specific policy goals and export criteria for arms transfer decisions. The US also maintains comprehensive and sophisticated laws and regulations governing arms sales, particularly through the Arms Export Control Act, which is implemented by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and the Foreign Assistance Act.

In addition to the comprehensive export control regime maintained by the US, during the last 30 years, over 30 international, multilateral, and regional agreements have been developed on a variety of aspects of the conventional arms trade. The US has supported these agreements to varying degrees, and has a mixed record when it comes to ratification and implementation of many of these instruments. Although ATT skeptics point to numerous existing agreements on the international arms trade, none are replacements for a potential ATT. The existing arrangements contain loopholes, as they do not include every type of transfer or activity related to the trade in arms. In addition, many are region-specific or apply to specific circumstances. And the majority of existing arrangements are voluntary, unspecific, and do not contain operative mechanisms (such as reporting, monitoring, verification, and enforcement); existing arrangements are often ambiguous, difficult to implement, and ineffective.

During the Bush Administration, the US was criticized for its views and approaches to the ATT. However, the first year of the Obama Administration has seen a dramatic shift in policy with regard to the ATT. Under the Bush Administration, the US voted against UN resolutions on the ATT and was skeptical of its purpose and need. The Obama administration made its first significant public statement on the ATT in October 2009 in a short press release, “US Support for the Arms Trade Treaty,” demonstrating a new approach to the ATT, and has publicly supported efforts to begin ATT negotiations at the UN. The specifics of the US position on the ATT are still being developed. Without a draft treaty text, it is difficult to ascertain whether US law fits within the framework of an ATT. The “Global Principles for the Parameters of an ATT,” published by the Arms Trade Treaty Steering Committee in July 2009 [is the most current iteration of ATT principles].

Although stakeholders have begun to raise the profile of the ATT within the US, the conventional arms trade has had little salience among US government agencies, the media, and the public. As views about an ATT develop, some positions are clear. An ATT will not be a disarmament measure, nor will it ban the trade in conventional weapons. An ATT would be one tool to help States regulate the international transfer of conventional weapons. Moreover, the ATT will not address domestic or internal arms transfers, but will focus solely on international transactions, on a case-by-case basis, and will take into consideration many factors, including costs and benefits of the transfers. The ATT is intended to export sound national arms export control practice, and will include not only the physical transfer of weapons, but the entire process of international arms transfers, such as brokering, financing, and transport. To be successful, an ATT must be clear, nondiscriminatory, and enforceable, establishing clear guidelines for implementation, transparency, monitoring, compliance, and verification.

In sum, the new US approach ensures that the US has a significant opportunity to influence the ATT at its creation. With US involvement in the treaty process the ATT will not adopt a lowest common denominator standard or restrict US foreign policy decisions and prerogatives. In addition, the US will insist on an ATT that allows for national implementation and high standards. The ATT is not a panacea, but will help the international community better implement global controls on international transfers of weapons.



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

Building Momentum toward Zero Nuclear Weapons

(part 2 of 2, part 1 of 2 in April edition)

II What is required for nuclear disarmament?

In Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1969 all state parties undertook “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and relating to nuclear disarmament.”

- 1. Prohibit testing.** Partial test Ban 1963. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) 1996 for underground testing. Ratified by all states but US, China, India. The CTBT is operational - there is a moratorium in place. There are 337 monitoring stations throughout the world.
- 2. Reducing stockpiling.** Russia being secured through the Global Partnership Program; US, France, Great Britain decreasing.
- 3. Development.** There is no prohibition on research on nuclear weapons as yet. In Russia thousands of former nuclear weapons researchers are being redeployed under the Global Partnership Program to which Canada is a party.
- 4. Production.** We need to: put fissile materials under international inspection; stop plutonium pit production; support the fissile materials cut-off treaty.
- 5. Transfer.** NW states must not transfer NWs technology. Everyone else is promised assistance with peaceful nuclear use.
- 6. Eliminate.** Remove weapons from immediate deployment; disable warheads etc. START I 1991: US and Russia goal to reduce to 2000 warheads each. START II 2010 likely goal of under 1650 each.

III Building Momentum for Zero Nuclear Weapons

States and leaders calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

*The European Parliament *New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden)
*7 nation initiative (Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Norway, Romania, South Africa, UK) *700 Parliamentarians worldwide (63 from Canada) *former statesmen (from USA, Russia, Norway, UK, Germany, Australia, Poland, Italy, France, Belgium) *3680 Mayors from 135 countries (includes Mayor Bronconnier) *Global Zero Initiative (100 international leaders) *high level commissions sponsored by Sweden, Australia, Japan

Moral Opinion against nuclear weapons

*Hibakusha (Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors) *World Council of Churches and Canadian Council of Churches
*International Trade Union Confederation *International Red Cross *32 Nobel Peace Prize winners *502 Order of Canada recipients are calling for a nuclear weapon convention (treaty)

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones

*Latin America – 33 states *South Pacific – 13 states *South East Asia – 10 states
*Africa – 52 states *Central Asia – 5 states *Mongolia – 1 *The Antarctic - 1

IV Action (Please call our office 270-7366 to volunteer!)

1. Have a group you belong to do letter-writing. Current suggestions are at www.abolishnuclearweapons.ca. Tell our Prime Minister that you want serious financial, diplomatic, and political work on a ban on nuclear weapons. Write any time.
2. Empower children and youth to act on this issue
3. Help Ploughshares to invite recipients of the Order of Canada to join a call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (Treaty).
4. Support already existing groups such as Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.abolishnuclearweapons.ca) and Project Ploughshares Calgary.
5. Call for media to report on progress happening on abolition of nuclear weapons.

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)