

**PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY**

# Peace News

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010



**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**

## Holiday Peace Fair

*Supporting Social Justice and Fair Trade*

**Saturday November 6th 9:30am—4pm**

### St. David's United Church

3303 Capitol Hill Cres NW (near the University LRT station)

Buy unique and magnificent gifts from over 25 vendors working for peace, social justice or the environment. Check the Ploughshares website for a list of vendors.

**Admission: \$3, children 12 and under free**

Light lunch options for purchase catered by  
**El-Rouhaa Pita Bakery & Restaurant**



Vendors will be selling a variety of goods from sweaters, scarves, t-shirts, bags and jewelry - to soap, olive oil, coffee & tea, and decorations for your home and for the season. There are several new vendors to the fair this year—be sure to visit them!

At the Ploughshares sales tables there will be the usual:

- peace and environmental themed buttons, stickers and postcards
- co-operative games made in Canada by Family Pastimes
- books for all ages from the Mustard Seed Bookstore
- honey and Entertainment books

New to the Ploughshares tables are items made by local Calgary artisans who want to support the peace work of Ploughshares, and a silent auction table. Don't forget to check out what's for sale on the Ploughshares bake sale table in the lunch room!

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## Remembering Peace for Remembrance Day

**Wednesday November 10th 7:30pm**

**Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)**

Hear perspectives on war and peace that are not often heard around November 11th. Peter Klassen applied for Conscientious Objector status during World War II, was denied and shipped overseas. Dan Jack's father-in-law Dave Goerzen worked in Banff on the ice-ship Habakkuk as a CO. Listen to the thoughts written by a US Iraq war resister about Remembrance Day. These individuals have made sacrifices for a peaceful world and Ploughshares invites you to learn about their experiences as part of how you mark Remembrance Day this year.

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## Remembering All the Victims of War

Join Ploughshares Calgary and members of the Peace Pole Committee at the **Peace Pole** (along the Bow River pathway near 8th Street and 2nd Ave) on **Thursday Nov 11 at 1pm** for a wreath laying.

## Ploughshares Calgary News

Project Ploughshares celebrates the life of strong supporter Louise Guy who passed away on Sept 30. She has received many accolades for her brilliant language capacity, athleticism into her 90's and deep humanity. Her common sense approach in discussions and her outspokenness on the subject of nuclear weapons were known and greatly appreciated in Ploughshares. Louise and her cheerfulness will be much missed.

### Ploughshares Supporter Survey

The Project Ploughshares Calgary executive has created a supporter survey in order to learn from you what you feel are important peace issues for Calgarians, which issues Ploughshares should work on, and why you are connected to Ploughshares Calgary. Please take the time to fill out the survey—either online through our website or at the Ploughshares information table at the Peace Fair. We'd like to have completed surveys submitted back to Ploughshares by the end of November. Your responses will help Ploughshares create our programming for 2011.

### Financial Update

Project Ploughshares Calgary sincerely thanks all our supporters who have donated in the last six months. Did you know that it takes \$3000 per month to run Ploughshares Calgary? That's \$36,000 a year. It is sometimes difficult to keep our cash flow in the black. We applaud last month's givers who gave a total of \$2460. Watch this space for monthly updates! Thanks for your support!

### For Sale!!!



**2011 Entertainment Coupon books** for the Calgary area are available at the Ploughshares office for \$40. This fundraiser supports the peace work of Ploughshares Calgary—Ploughshares receives \$8 for each book sold.

**Peace Doves** Ploughshares Calgary is offering these white peace dove pins for \$1 each, and we encourage supporters to wear them each year for the International Day of Peace on September 21, and also with their red poppy for Remembrance Day. The White Peace Dove Campaign was inaugurated in 2009 with the goal of providing Canadians with a symbol that they could wear to demonstrate their profound commitment to the cause of Peace. See [www.whitepeace doves.org](http://www.whitepeace doves.org) for more information about this campaign.



### Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention

Project Ploughshares Calgary helped host an information reception in Calgary on October 20th for members of Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (CNWC). Over 500 recipients of the Order of Canada have joined an initiative led by John Polanyi, C.C., Douglas Roche, O.C., and Murray Thomson, O.C., calling for international negotiations to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention – a verifiable treaty on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. One of the founders of CNWC, Murray Thompson (also one of the founders of Ploughshares national) was in Calgary to meet for the first time with other OC's in Calgary who have joined CNWC to answer questions about the initiative and discuss possible next steps in growing the initiative and in reaching it's objective.

### Concerned about Canada's Plans to Purchase Stealth Fighters?

Project Ploughshares national has several articles on their website responding to the announcement made in July by the Canadian government on plans to pursue purchasing F-35 fighter jets. The Rideau Institute on International Affairs is planning on adding background resources on this topic to the [www.ceasefire.ca](http://www.ceasefire.ca) website (including a petition). MP's are scheduled to be back in their ridings Nov 8-12 and Ploughshares Calgary supporters are encouraged to consider writing to their MP's or meeting with them to discuss concerns about the plans for the purchase of the F-35 jets. Talking points could include:

- The costs involved have not been presented, and F35 fighter jets do nothing to fight current security threats.
- The anticipated missions for the aircraft have not been explained, especially in relation to Canada's other aircraft needs (multi-purpose aircraft like search and rescue helicopters or transport planes).
- Currently the Canadian government security spending is weighted heavily towards defence while projected expenditures on diplomacy and development are frozen or being reduced.

Excerpts from the Autumn 2010 edition of *The Ploughshares Monitor*

## **Armed conflict and armed violence—an expanding policy lens**

*By John Siebert, Executive Director*

People not in war zones are increasingly subjected to violence perpetrated with weapons. Analysis and responses to insecurity in wars or “armed conflicts” have been expanded in recent years to include the circumstances of “armed violence,” that is, violence perpetrated with weapons but not in wars.

The expansion of the policy lens is derived in part from the falling number of armed conflicts since 1995— from 44 to 28 in 2009—but the number of people dying violently has remained relatively constant. An estimated 740,000 people die each year from armed violence, with 490,000—or the majority of these deaths—taking place outside war zones. In the absence of the competing political goals that are a part of wars between or within countries, guns are being used in post-conflict circumstances and in criminal activities often related to gangs and drugs and other unlawful activities; think Mexico with a reported 28,000 violent deaths in the past four years, or Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, where the annual number of violent deaths exceeds the death tolls for many countries generally considered to be at war.

While some strategies to end armed conflicts are similar to those used to address armed violence, there is one fundamental difference: in situations of armed violence there aren't necessarily sides, or identifiable armed groups, with whom to negotiate an end to hostilities, or concessions to be made to hold elections, or to satisfy grievances. The absence of government control—indeed, profound government dysfunction— characterizes situations of armed violence, as do longstanding or structural problems of social and economic inequity.

Any or all of these factors may be the wellspring of intense but seemingly undirected violence. In other words, the debilitating loss of life and injuries are consistent with the conditions of war, but the means to end these conflicts are not readily apparent.

While it is still early days in defining the parameters of “armed violence” research per se, the quest to prevent armed violence outside of war zones is not new. A range of interventions are being used—under the rubric of “armed violence reduction” or other policy banners—to meet the goal of interrupting and eliminating armed violence. These range from strengthening legislation and regulation on gun possession and use by host governments to enhancing community policing and social interventions to educate or provide employment for young men, who are the primary perpetrators and direct victims of gun violence in most parts of the world.

## **The Canadian Forces and peace support operations after 2011**

*By Ernie Regehr*

Approaches to post-2011 roles for Canadian Forces outside North America will clearly be influenced by the Afghanistan experience. So when the Prime Minister told CNN in March 2009, “my own judgment is, quite frankly, that we are not going to ever defeat the insurgency”, we should understand that he was not only stating an Afghan-specific truth, but was reflecting a broader reality.

One part of that reality is that insurgencies are in fact rarely defeated on the battlefield. Put another way, complex human conflicts are not amenable to “purely military solutions.” National or intrastate armed conflicts are largely ended through negotiations and “high-level political settlements.” Thus, if insurgencies are not defeated, but end through political negotiations, such peace processes should be built into peace support operations from the start (as emphasized by the Security Council in the context of reviewing peacekeeping operations).

Peace operations are, by definition, mounted in extraordinarily difficult circumstances—where even after peace agreements are signed, state governance remains dangerously fragile, economies are shattered, security forces are seriously compromised, and political loyalties are complex and frayed. That makes it essential for Canada and the international community to constantly update the lessons of experience in an effort to shift the odds toward success. Canada is in a good position to learn and act on the central lesson—namely, that establishing and consolidating peace is much more a political, economic, and social challenge than it is a military one.

The fact that Canada does not face imminent or foreseeable military challenges to its sovereignty, territorial integrity, or internal order means that it enjoys considerable flexibility in determining the best ways and means of addressing security challenges beyond our borders. In other words, because Canada is not burdened by the need to maintain high levels of military forces for security at home, our international peace and security toolkit need not be dominated by military capacity.



## Project Ploughshares Calgary

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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.

## Calgary Peace Events

**Wednesday, November 10 - 12-1pm**

**Professional Faculties Building 4259, U of C**

**PeaceTalk: *Dilemmas of Gender and Peacebuilding: Perspectives from Africa***

**Dr. Heidi Hudson**, visiting Research Fellow

Why do almost half of all peace agreements fail within the first five years of implementation? In many post-conflict situations in Africa impunity and lawlessness continue despite the existence of a formal peace. Why do high levels of gender-based violence persist, despite the presence of contingents of female peacekeepers, gender advisors and a clear mandate to honour and implement UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security? Ten years after its adoption, questions about the real gains women have made after the conflict remain.

*Host Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary*

**7pm Friday Nov 19 - 8pm Sunday Nov 21** at the **River Park Church Auditorium** 3818 -14A St. SW

**Marda Loop Justice Film Festival—Annual Festival & NGO Village** [www.justicefilmfestival.ca](http://www.justicefilmfestival.ca)

**Friday - November 19: 7pm *Budrus*** (*uniting Palestinians and Israeli activists through unarmed resistance*)

**9pm *Bomb Harvest*** (in bomb disposal you only make one mistake)

**Saturday - November 20: 1:30pm *Fresh*** (celebrating farmers and business people re-inventing our food system), **3:30pm *Arvari Water Parliament*** (reviving rain water harvesting), **4:30 *Sin by Silence*** (prison is safer than the love of your life), **6pm *As We Forgive*** (can mercy restore what genocide destroyed?), **7:30pm *Crude*** (a protracted, bitter lawsuit against Chevron in Ecuador)

**Sunday - November 21: 1pm *Reclaiming Rights*** (marriage, love and law in Afghanistan as girls seek justice), **3pm *Smile Pinkie*** (a heartwarming tale of a poor Indian village girl), **4pm *Chemical*** (redefining clean), **6pm *A Small Act*** (a single gesture, limitless possibilities)

**November 19 - 21 at the University of Alberta, Edmonton**

**Parkland Institute's 14th Annual Fall Conference**

**Rewriting a Country: *Toward a Just and Peaceful Canada***

Check out all the details and register on-line, at the conference web-site: [www.parklandinstitute.ca](http://www.parklandinstitute.ca)

Speakers include: **Margaret Atwood**, Canada's most famous author; **Marci McDonald** - award-winning journalist and author of *The Armageddon Factor*; **Lind McQuaig** - journalist and best selling author; **Amir Khadir**, co-leader of Québec solidaire; **Murray Dobbin** - activist, journalist, broadcaster, and author; **Joyce Green** - professor of political science at the University of Regina; **George Elliot Clarke**, playwright, poet and chronicler of 'Africadia', and many others writers, academics, and activists from across Canada.

**Tuesday, November 23 - 7:30pm**

**Motel Space 2nd Floor, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts** 205, 8th Avenue SE

The Downstage Performance Society and the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary are proud to announce the winners of the **Uprising National Playwriting Competition: Peace, Politics and Society** for 2010. This competition celebrates playwrights whose work dynamically engages with social and political issues and/or promotes peace, social justice and human rights. First prize awarded to Mansel Robinson for his play *Two Rooms*. "*Murder, betrayal, politics and terror: a love story. Murdoch is a charming, yarn-spinning, old-school, white Canadian cop. His wife is a doctor: young, beautiful, smart, a Muslim Uyghur - and a suspect. She has a lot to confess. So does he.*" More information at [www.downstage.ca/uprising.html](http://www.downstage.ca/uprising.html).

**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)