

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

JUNE 2016



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Wed
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

**PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY
PEACE EDUCATION SEMINAR
THE SYRIAN CONFLICT: AN OVERVIEW**

**Wednesday June 8, 2016, 7:20 PM
Parkdale United Church Conference Room
2919 – 8 Avenue NW**



**Speaker: Dr. Mark Ayaash
Professor of Sociology and
Director, Peace Studies Initiative
Mount Royal University**

**Project Ploughshares AGM will take place from 7:00 – 7:15 PM
More Info – office@ploughsharescalgary.ca
403-270-7366**

Ploughshares News



Nuclear Abolition: Next Steps for Each of Us

Wednesday May 11, 2016

Bev DeLong, Facilitator

Bev began by making a comparison between the wildfires in Fort McMurray and a scenario where the fires might have been triggered by nuclear explosions. How much worse would the situation be, and how much longer until it would be safe for the residents to return?

Some positive progress towards elimination of these weapons: At the height of the Cold War (1986), there were 69,000 nuclear weapons, and now there are 15,350. Unfortunately, we know that an exchange of as few as 100 nuclear weapons would produce enough smoke and soot from firestorms that it would trigger a nuclear famine around the world.

Mayors for Peace have increased their number now to 7,000 mayors around the world supporting the call for abolition. Another important step is the work that has been done on the humanitarian law implications for nuclear weapons. The following Humanitarian Pledge came out of the 3rd conference held in Austria:

"We call on all state parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to the urgent and full implementation of existing obligations under Article VI,,,to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and we pledge to cooperate with all stakeholders to achieve this goal. We call on all nuclear weapons possessor states to take concrete interim measures to reduce the risk of nuclear weapon detonations, including reducing operational status of nuclear weapons and moving nuclear weapons away from deployment into storage, diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines and rapid reductions of all types of nuclear weapons."

Of note is also the fact that Canada has agreed to cooperate with the Middle Powers Initiative in hosting a Framework Forum meeting in April in Geneva. Additionally, Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention hosted the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Kim Woo-soo, in Ottawa on May 2nd and 3rd.

There is currently an opportunity for people to speak out, as the Government of Canada is in the process of doing a review of their defense policies that will conclude on July 31st. You are encouraged to speak out on the following three areas: 1) The main challenges to Canada's security; 2) The role the Canadian Armed Forces in addressing current threats and challenges; and 3) The resources and capabilities needed to carry out the CAF mandate.

Please write to your MP and ensure that YOUR voice is heard in this most important matter!

Project Ploughshares AGM & The Syrian Conflict: An Overview

Wednesday June 8th, 2016, Parkdale United Church Conference Room

2919 - 8 Avenue NW, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

The evening will begin at 7:00 with a Project Ploughshares Calgary's AGM.

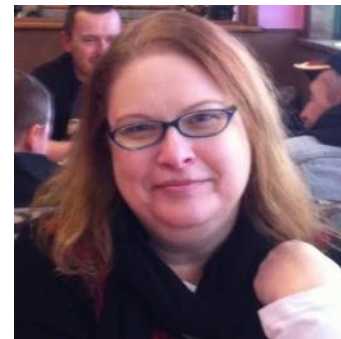
Immediately following (approx. 7:20), Dr. Mark Ayaash from Mount Royal University will speak about the Syrian conflict, giving us an overview of the situation. Mark's teaching and research interests include the study of violence, social and political theory, postcolonial conceptions of space and time,

transnational social movements, youth and social change, as well as the history, culture and politics of the Middle East (particularly Palestine-Israel). Mark's interdisciplinary approach to the study of violence draws from sociology, anthropology, international relations, postcolonial and cultural studies. His research advances a dialogical and multi-dimensional critique of violence, which can help scholars and peace activists (a) understand the often hidden parts that violence plays in human society, and (b) explore the complexities involved in efforts to move beyond violence. Mark's teaching approach adheres to his commitment to the open and accessible sharing of academic knowledge, and he constantly strives to make his engagement with students reciprocal and collaborative.



Message from Tracey Braun, Chair of Project Ploughshares

*When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know.
But if you listen, you may learn something new.*
— Dalai Lama XIV



As chair of Project Ploughshares Calgary for the past two years, I have been privileged to learn from many people, whether formally through speakers at events or informally around a table of like-minded people. It has allowed me to explore many aspects of peace, what peace means on a personal and political level for me, and where we can help to create peace when there seems no place for it.

Our focus this year on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work and its action items have required a commitment to deep listening, to hearing that which is painful or uncomfortable, and to listen without leaping directly into action or trying to fix the situation. This last has been critical for me, and has led to much exploration of how we can hold space for others while they take action to create peace. As I wrap up my time as chair and prepare to step into a different role as the past chair, I feel that my understanding of this work will only continue to grow.

I wish the new chair, the new program director, and all executive members the best as we continue this journey together.

Wil sha (may all be well).

Message from Karen Huggins, Program Director



It is with mixed feelings that I announce my resignation as Program Director of Project Ploughshares, effective June 30, 2016. I have very much enjoyed my 5 1/2 years with Ploughshares, and will miss the camaraderie of the Executive committee and many Ploughshares members who have always been so kind and helpful.

It has been very meaningful for me to work in my field these past years, and I give my kudos to Ploughshares for not engaging in ageism in their hiring process - a stroke of good luck for me! I had looked for work in the field of peace for nearly 3 years after graduating with my M.A. in Peace Education when I stumbled upon the ad for *Project Ploughshares Program Director*. It has been a good match and a great experience for me, and with the help of the board we launched a few great new initiatives while continuing on with the regular monthly programming.

There are some initiatives that I am particularly proud of, such as the 3-year-run of the *Calgary Peace Run & Walk*; the *Annual Toy Audit*; the lovely booklet of poetry and art - *Calgarians Write Peace*; Ploughshares' annual partnership with 2020 Vision for Humanity in bringing awareness to the horrors of nuclear war every August at the *Floating Lantern Peace Memorial*, an event that has proven to be particularly popular with Calgarians from all walks of life; and our Peace Education Seminar Series this past winter, *We Are All Treaty People*. And of course, the crowd-pleasing annual *Peace Fair*, now in its 32nd year, has always been a top-notch event that draws in people looking for environmentally-friendly, fairly-traded and sustainably-made gifts for the holidays.

While I will miss Ploughshares and all the momentous public events promoting peace, I am now at a stage where there are a few other things I'd like to do in my life. I am very much looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren, helping out my husband with his business, practicing Indian Head Massage, and writing.

I will still be around, and look forward to being a spectator and participant in Ploughshares' events. So for now, I leave you with a heartfelt 'hasta luego'...*(until later)*.

Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony

Thursday, August 4th, 2016

8 pm – 10 pm

Olympic Plaza, Calgary

In memory of all those impacted
by the atomic bombs dropped
on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and
in solidarity toward a peaceful world
without nuclear weapons

8 pm Pre-ceremony music


8:25 pm Opening Performance
Midnight Taiko Kai

- Children's drama
- Stories for peace
- Circles of Rhythm
- Didgeridoo and flute
- First Nations singers
- Keynote speaker

9:20 pm **Floating Lanterns
Launch**



Info: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca www.ploughsharescalgary.ca
<http://www.2020visionforhumanity.com/memoriantlantern.html>

 <https://www.facebook.com/FloatingLanternCeremony5/>; 403-270-7366

Background Image: Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome

Creeping militarization : Why are Canada's police officers looking increasingly like soldiers?

by Branka Marijan (Excerpt)

Published in *The Ploughshares Monitor* Volume 37 Issue 1 Spring 2016

http://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/creeping-militarization-why-are-canadas-police-officers-looking-increasingly-like-soldiers/

Police militarization has long been perceived as an American phenomenon. According to a National Public Radio investigation, since 2006 the U.S. military has given local police services in the United States equipment worth \$1.9-billion (U.S.), including 79,288 assault rifles and 206 grenade launchers (Rezvani 2014).

For Canadian observers, the extent of the militarization of U.S. police was particularly visible during the 2014 protests in Ferguson, Missouri over the police shooting of an unarmed African-American teenager, Michael Brown (Globe and Mail 2014). Images of heavily armed police facing protestors further highlighted what journalist Radley Balko (2013) has termed the “rise of the warrior cop”—the heavily armed military-like figure in U.S. policing. While Balko’s description of the warrior cop remains particular to the United States, concern over creeping militarization of the police has been growing in Canada.

Tanks and sound cannons

Police services across Canada have been acquiring military equipment ranging from Cougar light armoured vehicles (LAVs) to military-style rifles. In 2014 the Canadian Forces (CF) handed over a decommissioned LAV—essentially a tank—to the Windsor, Ontario police department for a symbolic \$1. The police then spent \$13,000 fixing and disarming it (Wilhelm 2014). A year earlier the police in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia had received a similar CF discard (Boutilier 2014).

Some Canadian police services, including those in Ottawa and Winnipeg, have purchased armoured vehicles. As University of Ottawa criminologist Michael Kempa points out, these acquisitions have not been subjected to public discussion and oversight (Ottawa Citizen 2014). For example, the Winnipeg police budgeted \$350,000 to purchase their vehicle. They notified the Winnipeg Police Board after the purchase. The Winnipeg Police Board responded with a policy that any future purchases over \$100,000 would require prior Board approval.

Strategy and tactics

Military strategy and tactics are trickling down to police services. Vancouver’s Military Liaison Unit (MLU) was meant to coordinate CF troops assigned to secure the 2010 Winter Olympics. However, the MLU continued after the games and now trains, with other Canadian police services, with the U.S. National Guard in the state of Washington (Lorinc 2014). Researcher Adam Molnar discovered that there was little public awareness of the MLU, its interaction with the Canadian Forces, or the essentially “military instruction” it was receiving during training (Lorinc 2014).

Kevin Welby, a professor of criminal justice at the University of Winnipeg, noted that the police “use strategy and language to refer to supposed threats that resembles that military personnel use” (Csanady 2014). According to Welby, crowd control tactics at the G20 in Toronto reflected this militarized strategy, while an increased use of digital surveillance brought this militarized approach to everyday policing (Csanady 2014).

Police perspective

Some police believe that a heightened risk of terrorist attacks and attacks on police warrants the new equipment and that worries about the creeping militarization of policing are overstated. The global threat of terrorism encourages a closer relationship between the military and police, who then adopt a more military style. But the Canadian context has so far kept this under control.

Canadian policing has a different starting point than its U.S. counterpart. Canadian policing is based on a 19th-century community-policing model developed by Sir Robert Peel (Csanady 2014). Having roots in the community affects the interaction of police services with the public.

Possible responses

The rate of serious crime in Canada is the lowest since 1969 and has been falling steadily for the last 11 years. So what is really needed now? Canada needs much more public oversight of the police services. Civil society, including Project Ploughshares, should pay closer attention to the purchase of military-style equipment. Local community organizations should engage with the police and voice concern over excessive use of force or tactics that seem more suited to a conflict zone than their local neighbourhoods.

We don’t need more military equipment and tactics. We need more community policing.



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

OFFICE CLOSURE
 Please note that the Ploughshares office will be closed during July and for most of the month of August. Messages will be checked weekly. Have a fantastic and peaceful summer!




We are very grateful to all our donors for their continued support of the important peace work that we do here at Project Ploughshares Calgary. During the month of May, we received \$200 in donations from individuals, and \$1175 from organizations. This is the lifeblood of our organization!

We would like to encourage you to continue your support by signing up for a monthly donation plan. This type of sustained donation is very beneficial for the day-to-day running of Project Ploughshares, as we know more clearly from month-to-month exactly what is coming in. This helps us immensely in planning our programs for the year! If you are interested in this option, please contact

the office: 403-270-7366, or email: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca.

We look forward to providing you with top-quality seminars and workshops on various peace topics, and would greatly appreciate your on-going support! Many, many thanks for your consideration.



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

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

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Donation Options: Cheque PayPal Cash

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

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 (Project Ploughshares is a charitable organization - we issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20)