

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

MARCH 2014



We are located:

**Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8**

403-270-7366

Office hours:

**Mon Tues & Thurs
10:00 am - 2:30pm**

Wed 12 - 4 pm

8th Annual Calgary Peace Prize Dinner

March 20, 2014, 5:30 - 9:00 PM

Magnolia Banquet Hall, 900, 5075 Falconridge Drive NE

The Calgary Centre for Global Community and the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary are extremely pleased to present the eighth annual Calgary Peace Prize to Dr. Samantha Nutt. The Calgary Peace Prize was established to recognize outstanding individuals from the global community, who work toward making the world a more just, safer and less violent place. Dr. Nutt will receive this honour at the Calgary Peace Prize Gala Dinner.

Samantha Nutt is an award-winning humanitarian, bestselling author and acclaimed public speaker. A medical doctor and a founder of the renowned international humanitarian organization War Child, Dr. Nutt has worked with children and their families at the frontline of many of the world's major crises – from Iraq to Afghanistan, Somalia to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone to Darfur, Sudan. A leading authority on current affairs, war, international aid and foreign policy, Dr. Nutt is one of the most intrepid and recognized voices in the humanitarian arena. With a career that has spanned more than two decades and dozens of conflict zones, her international work has benefited many thousands of war-affected children globally. (www.warchild.ca). Purchase tickets at <http://www.calgarycgc.org/calgary-peace-prize.html>, choose 'individual' tickets, and write in a request to be seated with other Project Ploughshares people.



**Creating Earth Democracy
Film Excerpts and Discussion about the
work of Dr. Vandana Shiva
Thursday March 27th, 7 - 9:30 PM
Commonwealth Bar, 731-10 Ave SW**

Join Public Interest Alberta and other community organizations for this important evening delving into the work of activist Vandana Shiva. In preparation for Dr. Shiva's visit to Calgary in April, excerpts from several films that highlight her work will be shown.

With some great food and drink we will be discussing some of Dr. Shiva's work and passions. She has been educating, mobilizing and inspiring people on issues such as GMO's and the privatization of the public sector.

Local organizations will be present to discuss some of the initiatives and commitments they are working on to make our communities more sustainable for future generations to come.

Dr. Shiva will not be present at this event - this is an opportunity to get together to discuss the issues she has worked on throughout her life.

For more information, contact calgary@pialberta.org

Upcoming Calgary Peace Events

Nuclear Abolition Group
Tuesday March 11, 2014

Parkdale United Church Board Room, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW



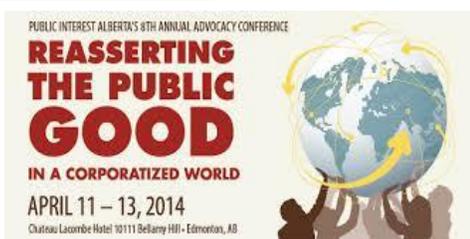
Another important topic will be addressed by a group of Calgarians who are concerned with our progress towards nuclear disarmament. You are invited to participate in an informal gathering that will serve to update everyone on progress-to-date, and then to consider what next steps we might take as Calgarians to encourage even further progress. Should we encourage Canada to join the 125 states that have signed the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons? What action would be interested in taking? For more information and to RSVP to the first meeting of this group, please contact Niki Enns Fehr at Nicole.enns.fehr@gmail.com. Resource Person: Bev Delong, Chairperson, Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Creating Earth Democracy: Reclaiming the Commons from Corporate Enclosures with Dr. Vandana Shiva
Thursday April 10, 7:00 PM - Red & White Club
McMahon Stadium, 1817—Crowchild Trail NW



Public Interest Alberta, in conjunction with several community groups including Project Ploughshares, is pleased to announce the keynote speaker for our [8th annual advocacy conference, Reasserting the Public Good In a Corporatized World](#), is Vandana Shiva. Corporate Globalisation is based on the enclosures of the commons and privatisation of the public good. Patenting of seeds, privatising water, health, and education are examples of the contemporary enclosures. Across the world, citizens and communities are defending and reclaiming the commons. The talk will focus on the story of the seed, and the work of Navdanya to defend Seed Freedom and create Earth Democracy.

This event will be followed by a reception. For tickets, please follow the link: <http://pialberta.org/content/pia-2014-annual-conference>.



The Human Voice Project
Sunday May 4, 2014, 2 - 4 PM
Endeavour Arts Gallery - #200, 1209 - 1 St SW

The purpose of the Human Voice Project is to learn from the lives, experience and wisdom of people willing to share what they have discovered about the human condition on life's journey. It also encourages us to reflect on our own lives and the gifts we can share to become more active, engaged and hopeful global citizens.

This year's theme is 'Lives Touched by War'.



Ploughshares News

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Donations



We received **\$100** during the month of February from individual donors, as well as **\$800** from organizations. We want to continue our important work of peace education in the Calgary community and need your help to do so! Please do think of Project Ploughshares when you're planning your charitable donations, and give generously! We value each and every contribution. We can't continue to do the important and meaningful work of peacebuilding without you!

Emergency Assistance to South Sudan

Mennonite Central Committee is finalizing plans to provide supplementary food to about 2,000 children under the age of 5 in South Sudan. The children are amongst approximately 75,000 people who have fled to Awerial in Lake States because of recent violence. MCC is also working with their partner organizations in other regions of South Sudan on food and other forms of assistance for displaced people. Donate here: <http://mcccanada.ca/stories/news/food-children-south-sudan>



Volunteers Needed!

Calgary Peace Run Festival - would you like to sit on a genuinely fun committee that is dedicated to advancing peace in Calgary? **The Calgary Peace Run Festival Committee** is for you! We are looking for people who have a knack for finding sponsorships, grants and other funding options that will help keep the Calgary Peace Run Festival a viable, engaging and sustainable community event. The **Calgary Peace Run Festival** is a great way to meet new people and to help out in a very worthy

cause—the cause of peace! So whether you would simply like to power through a grant proposal, help in finding draw prizes for the runners and walkers, contact specific sponsors for this event or create a complete funding plan, please contact us! We need you on board!

Calgary Peace Walk Volunteer Appreciation Event

Thursday April 17, 2014 - 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Parkdale United Church Conference Room

2919 - 8 Avenue NW, Calgary

A special thank you evening for all the many volunteers who came out to help with the Calgary Peace Run Festival in 2013 - as well as for those who are interested in joining us for the newly re-branded Calgary Peace Walk Festival, which takes place on Saturday September 20, 2014 starting at Eau Claire Market. We deeply appreciate and count on volunteers to help us out with this large community event.

For those who helped last year - please come and see what treats we have in store for you! For those who would like to join this fun and engaging event - either with the advance planning, or on the day of - we'll have information regarding what kinds of jobs are available for the 2014 event. Snacks and other goodies provided!

Please RSVP to Karen at 403-270-7366, or office@ploughsharescalgary.ca.



There are seven billion of us on this planet. Seven billion reasons why we must ban nuclear weapons to keep our world and loved ones safe. And the only missing piece to the solution is making our voices heard.

By bringing all of our voices together, we can shout so loudly that our demand for a safer world is heard and acted upon across the globe.

Join today - wage all-out peace for Nuclear Zero. Info at nukesarenuts.org



UNLIREC Collaborates with Guyana In the Destruction of Weapons

On 23 January 2014, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) officially handed over a set of hydraulic shears to the Government of the Republic of Guyana for the destruction of small arms and a Small Arms Ammunition Burning Tank (SAABT) for the destruction of small arms ammunition and explosives. Both of these pieces of equipment were provided to Guyana with a view to ensuring permanent indigenous capacity for regular destruction of weapons and ammunition.

The handover ceremony, held at Eve Leary Police Barracks in Georgetown, included attendance by Minister of Home Affairs Clement Rohee; Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Chief of Staff, Brigadier Mark Phillips; United States Ambassador to Guyana, Mr Brent Hardt; Police Commissioner Leroy Brumell.

Prior to the official handover of equipment, 25 persons from the Guyana Police Force (GPF) and the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) were trained in the maintenance and operation of the hydraulic shears resulting in the destruction of 700 surplus and obsolete firearms.

These specialized destruction tools complement the delivery of 40 padlocks and hasps also provided by UNLIREC to national authorities for enhancing the security of strategic stockpile facilities, thus contributing to preventing theft, loss and diversion of firearms and ammunition to illicit actors. Both sets of equipment will bolster Guyana's ability to combat illicit trafficking in firearms and reduce and prevent armed violence.

UNLIREC will be returning to Guyana in early February 2014 to conduct training sessions on the use of the SAABT and to support further destruction of surplus, obsolete and seized weapons, ammunition and explosives.

The donation of this equipment and technical assistance forms part of a wider UNLIREC programme for firearms destruction and stockpile management support to Caribbean States aimed at combating illicit trafficking by reducing the risk of theft and diversion from government holdings of firearms, ammunition and explosives. The activities carried out were made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of the United States of America.

UNLIREC, as the regional office of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, seeks to advance the cause of practical disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean and to support Member States in the region their implementation of international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, including the UN 2001 Programme of Action on Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

For more information on UNLIREC visit (www.unlirec.org.)



Demonstration of how cutting with the hydraulic shears renders the weapon inoperable.



The Power of Parliamentarians in Abolishing Nuclear Weapons -

Excerpted from: <http://www.worldbeyondwar.org/power-parliamentarians-abolishing-nuclear-weapons/#sthash.iqMyuBlp.dpuf>

Address by Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C., to Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, "Climbing the Mountain" Conference, Washington, D.C., February 26, 2014

At first glance, the elimination of nuclear weapons appears to be a hopeless case. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has been paralyzed for many years. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is in crisis. The major nuclear weapons states refuse to enter into comprehensive negotiations for nuclear disarmament and are even boycotting international meetings designed to put world attention on the "catastrophic humanitarian consequences" of the use of nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons states are giving the back of their hand to the rest of the world. Not a cheery outlook.

But look a little deeper. Two-thirds of the nations of the world have voted for negotiations to begin on a global legal ban on nuclear weapons. Two weeks ago, 146 nations and scores of academics and civil society activists assembled in Nayarit, Mexico to examine the staggering health, economic, environment, food and transportation effects of any nuclear detonation – accidental or deliberate. A UN High-Level International Conference on nuclear disarmament will be convened in 2018, and September 26 every year from now on will be observed as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

The reason that the nuclear disarmament movement is stronger than it appears on the surface is that it stems the gradual awakening of conscience taking place in the world. Driven forward by science and technology and a new understanding of the inherency of human rights, an integration of humanity is occurring. Not only do we know one another across what used to be great divides, but we also know that we need one another for common survival. This is the awakening of a global conscience.

I am not predicting global harmony. The tentacles of the military-industrial complex are still strong. Too much political leadership is pusillanimous. Local crises have a way of becoming catastrophic. The future cannot be predicted. But I am saying that the world, soured on the wars of Afghanistan and Iraq, has finally righted itself and is on course to make inter-state wars a relic of the past.

Two factors are producing better prospects for world peace: accountability and prevention. We never used to hear much about governments accounting to publics for their actions on the great questions of war and peace. Now, with the spread of human rights, empowered civil society activists are holding their governments accountable for participation in the global strategies for human development. These global strategies, apparent in diverse fields, from genocide prevention to the involvement of women in mediation projects, foster the prevention of conflict.

This higher level of thinking is bringing a new potency to the nuclear disarmament debate. Increasingly, nuclear weapons are seen not as instruments of state security but as violators of human security. More and more, it is becoming apparent that nuclear weapons and human rights cannot co-exist on the planet. But governments are slow to adopt policies based on the new understanding of the requirements for human security.

My experience leads me to choose starting a process in which like-minded states begin preparatory work with the specific intention of building a global law. This means identifying the legal, technical, political and institutional requisites for a nuclear weapons free world as the basis for negotiating a legal ban on nuclear weapons. It will undoubtedly be a long process, but the alternative, a step-by-step process, will continue to be foiled by the powerful states. I urge parliamentarians to use their access to power and introduce in every Parliament in the world a resolution calling for immediate work to begin on a global framework to prohibit the production, testing, possession and use of nuclear weapons by all states, and provide for their elimination under effective verification.

Advocacy by parliamentarians works. Parliamentarians are well placed not only to lobby for new initiatives but to follow through on their implementation. They are uniquely placed to challenge present policies, present alternatives and generally hold governments accountable. Parliamentarians hold more power than they often realize.

Parliamentarians for Global Action developed into a network of 1,000 parliamentarians in 130 countries and branched out on an expanded list of global issues, such as fostering democracy, conflict prevention and management, international law and human rights, population, and environment. The organization was responsible for getting the negotiations started for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and supplied the muscle to get many governments to sign onto the International Criminal Court and the 2013 Arms Trade Treaty.

The voice of parliamentarians may in the future become stronger if the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly takes hold. The campaign hopes that some day citizens of all countries would be able to directly elect their representatives to sit in a new assembly at the UN and legislate global policies. This may not happen until we reach another stage of history, but a transitional step could be the selection of delegates from national parliaments, who would be empowered to sit in a new assembly at the UN and raise issues directly with the Security Council.

Even without waiting for future developments to enhance global governance, parliamentarians today can and must use their unique position in government structures to push for humanitarian policies to protect life on earth. Close the rich-poor gap. Stop global warming. No more nuclear weapons. That is the stuff of political leadership.



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"It may seem sometimes as if a culture of peace does not stand a chance against the culture of war, the culture of violence and the cultures of impunity and intolerance. Peace may indeed be a complex challenge, dependent on action in many fields and even a bit of luck from time to time. It may be a painfully slow process, and fragile and imperfect when it is achieved. But peace is in our hands. We can do it."



~ Kofi Annan

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

Calgary Events



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
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	monthly donation
<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)	\$_____	

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Donation Options: Cheque PayPal Cash

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

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



Mennonite Central Committee News: Restorative Justice Program

Advocacy - to promote justice policies that recognize crime as harm against persons, and that suggest responses that are victim sensitive, promote offender responsibility to make things as right as possible and engender community participation and support.

Connection - to promote interaction and dialogue between programs and institutions with similar restorative justice goals and process, to provide a place for mutual challenge, support and encouragement.

Education - to promote awareness within the Mennonite constituency and in the general public of restorative justice values, principle and practices and encourage application of them in specific contexts.

Research - to gather pertinent emerging information regarding all aspects of restorative justice in a national sense and making any useful information available to the relevant persons and programs.

For more information contact: restorativejustice@mennonitecc.ca