

PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY

Peace News

SEPTEMBER 2016



We are located:

Parkdale United
Church
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Office hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs
10 am - 3 pm
Wed 2 pm - 7 pm

PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY

SEPTEMBER 21ST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The Day's theme for 2016 is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace."

**Please join Project Ploughshares Calgary on
Wednesday, September 21st
At the Eau Claire YMCA Open Market Concrete
Square
Come when you can between 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm
To celebrate the International Day of Peace
And listen to live music performed by
The Aberhart High School Students.**

Ploughshares News

Secretary-General's Message for 100-day countdown to the International Day of Peace (13 June)

Every year on the International Day of Peace, the United Nations calls on the peoples of the world to remember their common humanity and join together to build a future free of strife. It calls on all of us to observe a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, and to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day.

This year's theme – *the Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace* – highlights how ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring broadly shared prosperity all contribute to global harmony. When we all work together, we can make peace possible, starting with 24 hours of peace on September 21.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were unanimously adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations at an historic summit in September 2015. They are universal, applying to all countries. And they are integral to achieving peace.

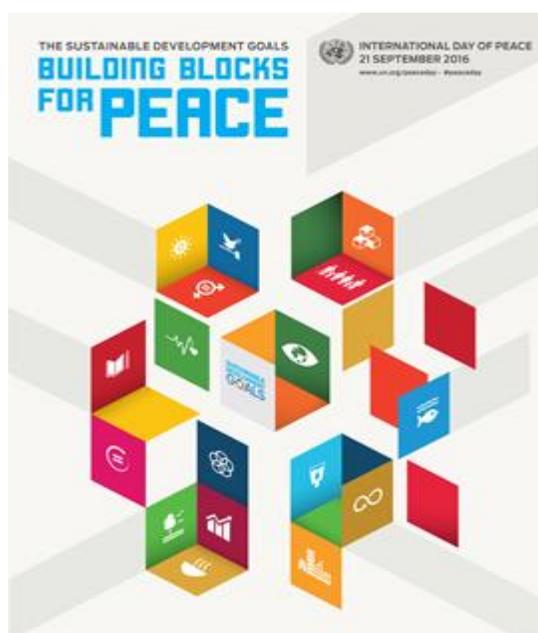
SDG #16 specifically focuses on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”. Yet peace runs like a thread through all 17 of the Goals.

When people feel secure in their abilities to provide for their families, when they are given access to the resources they need to live healthy lives, and when they feel truly included in their societies, then they are much less likely to engage in conflict.

That is why, over the next 100 days, we must recognize that development and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. We need to work together to help promote and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The leaders of the world have given us a clear blueprint, and by following it, we can help build a future of peace and prosperity.

Ban Ki-moon

(for more info go to www.un.org/events/peaceday/).



Excerpts from Douglas Roche's article on;

Canada turns back on UN plan to ban nuclear arms (published in "The Hill Times" on Wednesday, August 24, 2016)

In an amazing diplomatic volte-face, the Canadian government last week in Geneva voted against starting, in 2017, negotiations to ban nuclear weapons. The government turned its back on an important nuclear disarmament initiative and sided with the nuclear weapons states that want to keep and modernize their nuclear arsenals for the rest of the 21st century.

...Tariq Rauf, one of the world's leading experts on nuclear disarmament, says that Trudeau "seems disengaged on nuclear arms controls" and that the government has "undermined" the nuclear disarmament work so valiantly championed by Pierre Trudeau.

...At the very moment Canadian leadership was once more needed, the country took a dive. It's hard to overstate the dangers to the world posed by the 15,350 nuclear weapons in existence, many of them on hair trigger alert.

...Canada could have abstained, as Norway and the Netherlands, two other NATO countries, did. But Canada didn't even use this diplomatic device to at least keep the door to negotiations open.

...Now what is the government going to do? There is bound to be a vote in the UN General Assembly in mid-October on a resolution establishing a negotiating process. Will Canada succumb to the nuclear hegemony of the big powers or will it stand up for Canadian values and support a UN-sponsored negotiating process?

Former senator and ambassador for disarmament, Douglas Roche served as chairman of the United Nations Disarmament Committee.

[Sign the petition](#)

"The release of atom power has changed everything except our way of thinking...the solution to this problem lies in the heart of mankind. If only I had known, I should have become a watchmaker." -Albert Einstein

In light of the 71st anniversary of the terrible Hirohima and Nagasaki Atomic bombings and the increasing dangers of a catastrophic nuclear explosion occurring as the result of a regional war, accident or miscalculation, we ask you to call on Prime Minister Trudeau to lead internationally for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Go to:

<http://www.ceasefire.ca/?p=24026> to sign online.

Every signature counts!

Let PM Justin Trudeau know and see how much Canadians care about the issue of nuclear disarmament and the future of our planet.

Tracey Braun, Past Chair of Project Ploughshares

It has been a busy few months at PPC, starting with our AGM in June. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the meeting and talk, "The Syrian Conflict: An Overview" by Dr. Mark Ayaash (MRU professor and new Director of the Peace Studies Initiative). As I said at last year's Alternative Remembrance Day Service, it is important to understand that those coming from Syria have their own stories to share, and the information provided by Dr. Ayaash will help us place those stories into a deeper context.

We also said goodbye to Karen Huggins in June, but I'm happy to welcome Sultana Virani as our new Program Director. She comes with a wealth of experience in the nonprofit world and has already displayed a real enthusiasm to learn about all aspects of our peace work. I hope many of you will come out to our fall events to introduce yourself and share your own stories of how you are creating peace in the world.

Finally, I want to welcome our new Executive Member Vicki Perkins, who joined us this August, and also say thank you to all the Executive Members who continue to do a lot of behind the scenes work so that everything runs smoothly for you, our members and supporters. We're always looking for more people to join us, so if you're the type who likes a good committee (and really, who doesn't?) feel free to contact me via the office so we can connect over a coffee. If not, I thank you for your ongoing support in all the ways you provide it and hope to see you soon!

Tracey

Changes at the Office:

Hello! My name is Sultana and I am very excited to be the newest team member with Project Ploughshares Calgary filling the role of Program Director. While it has been a little overwhelming at the start of what I believe will be a great journey and the next stage in my life, I am looking forward to learning and educating myself as thoroughly as possible about all aspects of peace and how I can do my part in making this world and our community a peaceful and just place for all.

I have heard about and started to read the many wonderful things Project Ploughshares Calgary has done with the involvement of many wonderful volunteers and I look forward to meeting all involved with PPC in the coming weeks and months. Volunteers are the backbone of non-profit organisations. Indeed, Civil Society is an important piece of the pie together with the Public and Private sectors and in many aspects the driving force in initiating changes for a more just and peaceful World. Volunteers are the Angels who work countless hours, selflessly, unconditionally without expectation of remuneration, or recognition—just silently working to make the World and the communities they live in a better place and for this I say Thank You. We recognize the important and wonderful work you have done and are doing and I pray that you are rewarded many times over in many different ways.

There is still lots to do - I hope to see you at some or all of these upcoming events:

The International Day of Peace—September 21st

Fall Workshop—October 12

Remembrance Day—November 11th

Peace Fair—November 12th

I thank the Executive and all who have welcomed me so warmly and look forward to working with you as we encourage informed dialogue on peace and social justices issues.

Sultana

The Calgary Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony, August 6, 2016

Olympic Plaza Downtown

Organized by Project Ploughshares Calgary and 2020 Vision for Humanity.

Torrential rain raised the experience to a new level. On August 6th this year, well over two hundred Calgarians braved the elements to acknowledge that nuclear weapons must be eliminated. They joined in songs and listened to a thirteen year old M.C., a children's drama, a moving plea from Japan's Calgary Consul-General Tanabe, letters from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki expressing solidarity with Calgarians, and exquisite flute and digeridoo music played under canvas. Then they launched hundreds of brightly coloured lanterns on the Olympic Plaza pool. 'It felt like a cozy event', said one supporter, counter-intuitively. 50 volunteers had put together lanterns and staffed tables under canopies. Ten of those volunteers were immigrant teenagers, newly arrived. As the rain poured down on their canopy tent, they heard the facts about nuclear weapons and the desperate need to abolish them. They understood.

At one point, when the rain was coming back yet again, the crowd was offered the opportunity to move into the Performing Arts Centre for shelter. Nobody moved. They all stood where they were, stoically gripping their umbrellas. Immobile. 'Raise your hand if you would like the program to continue'. The crowd as one all silently raised their hands. Next year we'll publicize this as a rain OR shine event. Maybe a deluge helps actualize the ominous circumstances the human race is in.



Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony
August 6th Olympic Plaza
Speech by Consul-General Kunihiro Tanabe

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to share this evening with all of you gathered here today. In Japan, Floating Lantern Festivals are held once a year at the end of a special period in the beginning of August, when it is believed that the souls of the dead come back and visit us. It is said that the floating lanterns convey the souls of the lost and lead them back to the afterlife. I hope the beautiful lights of these lanterns console all those whose lives have been tragically ended in war, in terrorist attacks, and in senseless acts of violence the world over. I also hope that these lanterns will light within each one of you the spirit of peace and hope.

There are difficulties on the path of peace. Sometimes we can lose sight of the humanity in others. It can be so easy to become part of a collective mass of negative emotion, to blame those different from ourselves for our misfortunes. We must remain conscious of the common bonds we share.

We must never forget the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This means to never succumb to hate, for no such tragedy is worth repeating ever again.

With the fire of hope burning bright in my heart now, I offer you my thanks for joining me this evening and I ask you to join me in the solemn promise to always seek the path of peace.

Thank you.



Events Around Calgary

Event: Marda Loop Justice Film Festival presents: **Pipelines, Power and Democracy**

When: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Where: River Park Church

3818—14A Street SW

Free Admission

Event: **GIVE ME A CHANCE TO LIVE: Uniting Voices for South Sudan** (Conference on peace, reconciliation and postwar reconstruction/development of South Sudan)

When: Saturday, September 24, 2016 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: First Church of Nazarene

65 Richard Way SW

No Charge, includes a light lunch and refreshments

Event: **Peace Party and the launch of ‘Colouring Peace in Calgary’**

This colouring book features landmarks of our city and peace with captions in Black-foot, Arabic and English. This is a gift from our city to the many Syrian refugees coming to Calgary. The books will be on sale to Canadians for \$10 and gifted to Syrian newcomers for free.

When: Sunday, September 25, 2016 (RSVP by September 10th)

Please contact Carolyn Pogue for more information

www.hillhurstunitedchurch.com

www.carolynpogue.ca

Event: **The Soul of the Next Economy Forum** (including two Film Screenings)

When: September 30- October 1, 2016

Where: [Ambrose University](#)

150 Ambrose Circle Southwes

Visit website to register for **free** and more information

Website: <https://nexteconomyforum/>



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Tracey Braun for editing this issue of the newsletter.



Welcome to FALL

Hope you have had a great and peaceful Summer. The Office is now open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 am—3 pm and Wednesday from 2 pm—7 pm.



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 months of July & August, we received \$1,520 in donations from individuals. This is the lifeblood of our organization, so thank you again!

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 office@ploughsharescalgary.ca.

Project Ploughshares Calgary

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



- \$ 50
 - \$100
 - \$250
 - \$500
 - \$1000
 - Other Amount (Specify) \$_____
- I'd like to make a monthly donation of \$_____
 - I'd like to volunteer

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

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