



OCT 2019

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We need your donation

Did you know?

A group of researchers published a study in the academic journal *Science* suggesting that re-forestation may be the most valuable action countries can take to combat climate change.

Planting trees on treeless, non-agricultural, non-urban land at the scale the group suggests could reduce carbon pollution to a level that has not been seen for a century.

See [The World Can Support More Trees](#)

Thanks to all supporters of the *Ethical Responses to Refugee Needs Conference*

A very successful *Ethical Responses to Refugee Needs Conference* was held on Sept. 21st with a packed auditorium audience of approximately 70 participants at Parkdale United Church. Ploughshares Calgary Society most sincerely thanks the **Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)** and the **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)** for their support and expertise in getting the conference off the ground. We would also like to thank **Parkdale United Church and Foundation** for their ongoing support of the work of the Ploughshares Calgary Society. Their staunch support has enabled us to keep our doors open so far and to host conferences such as this in collaboration with agencies such as CCIS and MCC. Sultana Virani, Ploughshares Calgary's office director, was also instrumental in organizing a successful conference with her dedication and countless hours of planning and work. Thank you, Sultana!

We would also like to acknowledge the support of **Ten Thousand Villages** for the donation of Fair Trade tea and coffee for the conference, and **Basha Foods** for the donation of cookies and fruit. Ten Thousand Villages create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term, fair trading relationships. Basha Foods has more than 100 years combined experience in the industry; in an effort to keep more money in your pocket, they offer a wide array of both daily and weekly deals. Many thanks to Ten Thousand Villages and Basha Foods for their support for this conference!

The many different types of fruit served at the conference were courtesy of **Freestone Produce and Basha Foods**. Freestone Produce is a family owned produce wholesaler located in the heart of Northeast Calgary. Freestone Produce provides staple produce and unique grocery items to a wide variety of different food-based establishments, as well as local Calgarians who are looking for affordable prices on produce.

A warm and sincere thank you goes out to all the **volunteers** who helped with the set-up, take-down, kitchen duties, clean-up, and so on. It takes a "village" to plan and organize a conference such as this, and we were very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of diverse people helping out. A huge thank you as well to all **conference attendees** who came out to support the event.

And last, but not least, we would like to most sincerely thank all the **speakers/panelists and success story sharers** for giving up their Saturday to share their time, knowledge, and expertise with us, and for inspiring us. Together, we can keep Canada growing strong and welcoming.

Thank you all!!!

Join us for

"Indigenous Peoples of Canada? What about Indigeneity in Russia?"

Oct. 9, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Parkdale United Church, 2919 – 8th Ave. N.W. Calgary

Please mark your calendars and join us to hear **Jen Sidorova**, a PhD candidate at the University of Calgary, whose research focuses on Indigenous populations in Siberia. The first part of the talk will highlight Indigenous peoples in Siberia, the way that the Russian empire defined them, and how the Soviet government divided them into larger autonomous nations and smaller numbered nations. The second part of the talk will focus on the Soviet policy of assimilation and its prohibition of shamanism and shaman practices.

This event is free, but we also gratefully accept donations.



- ❖ **Munk Debates cancels foreign policy event because Trudeau won't attend.** Although the other three major party leaders said they would attend, organizers of a foreign-policy election debate that was scheduled for Oct. 1 cancelled the event because Liberal leader Justin Trudeau won't participate. Rudyard Griffiths, chair of the Munk Debates, said no one had a bigger impact on foreign policy over the last four years than Mr. Trudeau. Ploughshares Calgary regrets this cancellation as there are many key issues in this area that need to be addressed. Griffiths' noted in a statement, "Regrettably, the prime minister's refusal to attend our debate has denied Canadians the only real opportunity they had in this election to see his foreign policy record challenged in a substantive and sustained fashion." See [Trudeau cancels attendance at foreign policy event.](#)
- ❖ **Journalist and author Stephanie Nolen is the winner of the 2020 Calgary Peace Prize.** Stephanie Nolen's reporting has shone a light on some of the most important peace and justice issues of our time. Ms. Nolen will be honoured at an awards ceremony at the Jack Singer Concert Hall on April 8th 2020. Further event details will follow. See [Stephanie Nolen.](#)
- ❖ **Iran's foreign minister raises the prospect of a new nuclear agreement with Trump.** In this September 25, 2019, article on *CNN*, Tamara Qiblawi writes that Iran's foreign minister has raised the prospect of a new agreement with the United States that would see permanent sanctions relief exchanged for Tehran's permanent denuclearization. See [Iran.](#)
- ❖ **India, Pakistan, Kashmir: Taking the war option off the table.** At the time of an increasingly hostile relationship between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the authors in this article in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* review the history of the tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and outline a potential no war agreement to calm India-Pakistan relations for the long-term. See [India, Pakistan, Kashmir.](#)
- ❖ **September 26 marked the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.** The website of the International Campaign to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons outlines some of the activities that took place around the world to recongize this critical day. See [International Day](#)

We need your donation

The Ploughshares Calgary Society is running dangerously low on funds. We have operating expenses to cover each month, such as a minimal salary for our part-time office director, phone, stationery, and office supplies. However, we are seriously close to running out of funds in our operating budget. If you value the work that we do, please help us keep our doors open by making a donation now.

We seek to educate and encourage research to create mutual respect and understanding so as to contribute to human security and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. By holding educational events, engaging in advocacy, and publishing a regular newsletter, we seek to build sustainable peace, encourage practical steps towards nuclear disarmament, and minimize recourse to military force.

Ploughshares Calgary Society

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On another note . . .

We are trying to gauge readership of our newsletter. If you have read our newsletter this month, please take a moment to notify our office via email at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca. All you need to do is send an email with the subject line “Read Oct newsletter.” Thank you!



Photo by Yomex Owo on Unisplash