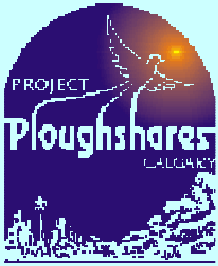


**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

FEBRUARY 2010



**We are located:
Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
403- 270-7366**

**Office hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm
Wed 2 - 6pm**

The Coordination Challenge in Contemporary Peacebuilding Wednesday February 10th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church



With guest speaker **Lara Olson** who is an Associate at the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies (CMSS) at the University of Calgary with extensive experience on practical approaches to improving the effectiveness of NGO humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts in conflict areas.

Lara is Co-director of the Peacebuilding, Development and Security Program of the CMSS. She will be relating what is known about effective models for civilian and military assistance to countries in transition from war to peace. It will be a summary of what has been learned to date, midstream, through an ongoing multiyear research project, Building Durable Peace: Enhancing Interagency Relationships in Peacebuilding.

Building Momentum toward Zero Nuclear Weapons

A Project Ploughshares Calgary Mini-Workshop

Saturday March 13th 8:45am—1pm

Parkdale United Church

Conference Room, Lower Level (2919 8th Ave NW)



Come hear details of the many fronts on which nuclear weapon disarmament is moving forward such as:

- Renewed commitment by leaders of the United States and Russia
- The spring Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference
- The on-going review of NATO's strategic concept

Hear too, how YOU are still needed in reinforcing this momentum. Citizens of the world need to continue to voice their support! Bev DeLong can tell us precisely how to do so. Bev DeLong is Chairperson of the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a member of the Canadian

Pugwash Group and one of the founders of Project Ploughshares Calgary.

Regular Workshop Fee: \$15 (refreshments & light lunch included) This is a bargain!
Student / Low Income: \$8 Contact the Ploughshares office to register.

Ploughshares Calgary News

Update on US Iraq War Resisters

About 15 people came out to Ploughshares' monthly public meeting on January 13 to watch a new DVD released by the War Resisters Support Campaign. *War Resisters Speak Out* is an hour-long screening of a 2008 panel discussion of a dozen US Iraq War resisters telling their stories, hosted by CBC radio host Andy Barrie. Through questions from Barrie, the war resisters shared about why they joined the US military, what made them realize that their conscience wouldn't allow them to continue to serve, why they came to Canada and what they have experienced here. Barrie, a Vietnam draft dodger who came to Canada, also compares his experiences to the experiences of these war resisters. Contact the Ploughshares office if you would like to borrow this DVD—we invite you to do so and watch it with your family, friends or group that you are a part of.

So far there have been two resisters who have been deported by Canadian authorities and have been jailed in the US. Robin Long and Cliff Cornell have each served a one year sentence. Over the past year there have been two Federal Court victories which ordered new Immigration and Refugee Board hearings for Joshua Key and Skyler James—finding fault with the original decisions leading to deportation orders. These legal victories have been building the case that war resisters who come to Canada and speak out against the war receive differential treatment if they are returned to the US and sent to jail.

However, no war resisters have been granted refugee status, and a number could receive decisions leading to deportation orders at any moment. In the past the minority Harper government has used holidays and prorogation periods to deport resisters, and the War Resisters Support Campaign fears Harper may use the new prorogation period to try to deport other war resisters.

Rodney Watson became the first resister to seek sanctuary to avoid deportation. He has been living in First United Church in Vancouver since September 2009 and has been joined by his Canadian wife and young son. An article about Watson has been published in *The United Church Observer* and can be found at: www.ucobserver.org/justice/2010/01/war_resister_rodney_watson

The Canadian Parliament has passed two motions that support allowing US war resisters to stay in the country. Both motions were non-binding, and the Conservative government has not acted on either. On September 17, 2009 Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy introduced Bill C-440, a private member's bill that would amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and thus be binding on the government. It would allow foreign military deserters to remain in the country if "sincere moral, political, or religious objection" is found to be behind the action. Bill C-440 has survived prorogation and will be up for second reading after Parliament resumes in March.

For further information about war resisters please check the War Resisters Support Campaign website: www.resisters.ca and www.letthemstay.ca. The Campaign is looking for individuals who might be willing to visit their MP regarding this issue or to write letters to the media if there is local coverage on this topic. And of course they always welcome donations.

There is a support group just in the forming stages here in Calgary to support a war resister and his family who are living in our city. Ploughshares will pass on more information about this separate group when we receive it.

Puppets for Peace Update



The Puppets for Peace bully-proofing program of Ploughshares Calgary has been steadily increasing its bookings of presentations in elementary schools in Calgary and the surrounding area since restarting in September 2009. The program restarted with offering *Birds of a Feather* to students grades 4-6 and in January 2010 added a second presentation, *Lisasaurus Rex* for students grades 1-3. To book or for more information about the program contact the Puppets for Peace Coordinator-Director Sheila Ross at puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca or 403-399-7226.

Ploughshares National News

Canada should support treaty banning nuclear weapons

Excerpts from Media release January 27, 2010 www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Abolish/NuclearNewsRelJan10 English.pdf

“The Canadian government needs to step up its efforts to stop the dangerous spread of nuclear weapons” said former Senator Douglas Roche following a two-day conference in Ottawa attended by academics, civil society leaders and government representatives. Participants included representatives from the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Canadian Pugwash Group, Physicians for Global Survival, Project Ploughshares and World Federalist Movement-Canada.

Panelists called for Canada to work to change NATO’s nuclear weapons policies, which still – 20 years after the end of the Cold War – claim that nuclear weapons are “essential.” This stand contradicts Canada’s commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which obliges all members to work for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Conference panelists noted there are at least 23,000 nuclear weapons still in existence with a combined blast capacity equivalent to 150,000 Hiroshima bombs. The U.S. and Russia each have 2,000 nuclear weapons on dangerously high alert.

“Negotiations should start now on a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which would be a treaty banning the production and deployment of nuclear weapons anywhere”, said Bev Delong, Chairperson, Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. “Already, 124 states at the U.N. have voted for such a measure, but Canada is still abstaining on the grounds that a global ban is ‘premature’.”

The group criticized this Canadian reluctance and stated, “The key to a nuclear weapons-free world is to start the negotiations now while political conditions are right,” said Pierre Jasmin, President, Les Artistes pour la Paix. This is the position taken by 481 members of the Order of Canada, who have called on Canada to work actively for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. A new moment has opened up with both U.S. and Russian leaders seriously committed to set the world on an irreversible path to zero nuclear weapons. The world risks falling into a security trap in which the elimination of nuclear weapons will remain an “eventual” goal, meaning that the goal is so far over the horizon as to be meaningless.

The sponsoring groups issued these recommendations to the Government of Canada:

- i) It is urgent that the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister find early and prominent opportunities, including the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and Canada’s chairmanship of the G8 and G20 meetings in Canada, to publicly address nuclear disarmament and reaffirm Canada’s commitment to a world without nuclear weapons.
- ii) Canada should encourage a new NATO Strategic Concept that:
 - welcomes and affirms the groundswell of calls for a world without nuclear weapons;
 - confirms NATO’s commitment to the objectives of the NPT and declares that the intent of Article VI is a world free of nuclear weapons; and
 - commits NATO to security and arms control policies that conform to Articles I and II of the NPT and that are designed to achieve the nuclear disarmament promised in Article VI.
- iii) The Canadian Government should support new initiatives within Europe and publicly indicate its support for the removal of all remaining non-strategic nuclear weapons from European soil, in support of longstanding international calls that all nuclear weapons be returned to the territories of the states that own them.
- iv) Canada should support the development of an improved strategic relationship with Russia including initiatives such as upgrading the NATO-Russia Council; promoting continuing strategic dialogue between the US and Russia in support of a new nuclear disarmament treaty; and follow-on measures that engage other states with nuclear weapons, including China.
- v) Canada should work to forge a consensus within NATO: that the policies of nuclear weapon states, and of NATO, should reflect the global norm, which has existed since 1945, against the use of nuclear weapons.
- vi) Canada should compliment the United States and Russia for negotiations toward a START replacement treaty and insist on commitments at the NPT Review Conference to further US and Russian reductions and to multilateral reductions leading to elimination.
- vii) As a NATO ally, Canada should encourage that the Alliance takes advantage of this moment to reduce and phase out the role of nuclear weapons in its security doctrines. The voice of Canada must be heard in these new, highly charged deliberations.
- viii) Canada should press for the NPT Review Conference to commit to preparatory work on a Nuclear Weapons Convention, or framework of instruments, for sustainable, verifiable, and enforceable global elimination of nuclear weapons.
- ix) The government should restore the practice of an inclusive approach to NGOs by naming representatives of civil society to the Canadian delegation to the 2010 NPT Review Conference in May 2010.



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Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Sally Hodges and Larry Kennard for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

Calgary Events

Amnesty International Film Fest Week

Amnesty International at the U of C is holding a week long film festival and are collaborating with a different group each night to show a documentary related to social justice and human rights. The schedule is as follows:

Monday Feb. 1: *Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars* (with WUSC)
<http://www.refugeeallstars.org>

Tuesday Feb. 2: *Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion* (with Students for a Free Tibet) <http://www.cryofthesnowlion.com>

Wednesday Feb. 3: *Afghan Massacre: The Convoy of Death* (with Afghan Canadian Students' Association) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghan_Massacre_-_the_Convoy_of_Death

Thursday Feb. 4: *Occupation 101* (with Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights) <http://www.occupation101.com>

Friday Feb. 5: *Children Underground* (with Orphan Sponsorship Program)
<http://www.docurama.com/productdetail.html?productid=Nv-NVG-5572-NVG-9508>

Movies will be held at 5pm each day in SA 106. Admission is by donation (recommended \$5) Free pizza, popcorn & drinks. Proceeds will be donated to the Haiti Relief Fund through the Red Cross

Black History Film Festival & Dramatic Reading (all events are Free)

Tuesday Feb 2: *Journey to Justice* 12-1:30pm That Empty Space

Tuesday Feb 9: *Speak It! From the Heart of Black Nova Scotia* 12-1:30pm That Empty Space

Wednesday Feb 24: *Prom Night in Mississippi* 7-9pm Science Theatre 145

Thursday Feb 25: *Things Fall Apart* (dramatic reading) 7pm Boris Roubakine Recital Hall

More information available at: www.su.ucalgary.ca/artsculture/events/black-history-month.html

Sunday Feb 14 Calgary's 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Women's Memorial March

Scarboro United Church, 134 Scarboro Avenue SW, Calgary. Parking is available on site.

The march starts at 2pm, please arrive at 1:30pm. Bring yourself and your friends for a positive event honouring the lives of the missing and murdered women of Southern Alberta. Please respect the memorial march and the leadership of those organizing it. We ask that you please do not bring your banners, flags, or leaflets as the Women's Memorial March carries 3 banners only to honor the women. For more information contact Suzanne at memorialmarchcalgary@live.ca.

Wednesday March 10th PeaceTalk with Tom Rippon

6-8pm at ST 139 Hosted by the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary.

Tom Rippon has operated his own business, Avalon Institute Inc., for over twenty-five years. Concurrently, Tom is an instructor at Camosun College in the Business Administration and Leadership Development programs; he is also Associate Faculty at Royal Roads University in the Faculty of Management. Tom's research interests include: Culture and a Culture of Peace; Peace and Security; Ethics; Corporate Social Responsibility; The Environment of Business; Efficacy of United Nations missions; and, Human Resource Management. He is the Editor-In-Chief for the Culture of Peace Online Journal.

Tuesday March 23 5:30pm Peace Prize Dinner

The Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary is pleased to announce its fourth annual Peace Prize recipient - human rights activist, documentary filmmaker and award-winning author Ms. Sally Armstrong. The awards ceremony will take place at Hotel Arts, 119, 12th Avenue SW.

Tickets are now available for purchase. Early bird tickets available until March 1 at \$150 each. Tickets thereafter will be available at \$175. Go to www.ucalgary.ca/peacestudies/peace_prize to purchase tickets.

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 (requires \$35 donation)