

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**



**We are
located in:**

**Parkdale
United Church**

**2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8**

403- 270-7366

Office hours:

**Monday,
Tuesday &
Thursday ó
10 am - 3 pm**

**Wednesday ó
2 pm - 7 pm**

Peace News

JULY/AUGUST 2017

Memorial Lantern Event Saturday, August 5, 2017, 8:30pm at Olympic Plaza, Calgary

Imagine a world at peace. Imagine no fear of nuclear weapons because they no longer exist. Imagine an event that plants a seed of hope which grows into fruition.

On Saturday August 5, 2017, the fifth annual 'Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony' will take place by the pool at Calgary's Olympic Plaza. Everybody is invited. Hundreds of beautiful lanterns will be released as people think of their own loved ones and the hundreds of thousands affected by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Lanterns available for rent for a small fee.

Calgary's fifth 'FLOATING LANTERN PEACE CEREMONY'

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017 OLYMPIC PLAZA CALGARY, 8.30pm-10pm

Come join us. Music starts at 8pm, ceremony is 8:30pm to 9:20pm.
Program includes:

- Anthony Burbidge award winning musician,
- Multicultural children's choirs and a children's drama,
- Short speeches by Imam Fayaz Tilly and Rabbi Saul Osadchey who were recently honoured by the United Nations,
- Greetings from mayors of cities around the world and more.
- Write a message on a lantern, light it and float it on the pool

This event will be echoed in many of the 7,295 cities in 162 regions/countries in the world who have joined Mayors for Peace. Mayors for Peace is a group of mayors, including Mayor Nenshi and Mayor Bronconnier before him, who are calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Check out <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english>. Mayors for Peace is just one of thousands of citizen groups across the globe opposed to nuclear weapons. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, unions, parliamentarians, scientists, university women, faith groups, musicians and artists all have groups in many countries speaking out against nuclear weapons. Join us!

Sponsored by Ploughshares Calgary Society and 2020 Vision for Humanity.

www.ploughsharescalgary.ca <http://www.2020visionforhumanity.com/memorial-lantern.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/2017-Floating-Lantern-Peace-Ceremony-in-Calgary-122281034993083/>



PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY UPDATE:

Thank you to all who attended our Annual General Meeting last month and participated in the world café discussions. It was heartening to hear of the good work Project Ploughshares Calgary has done in advocating for peace and educating about the various peace-related issues. It was inspiring to hear of the great ideas put forth by all in attendance of what events and programs Ploughshares Calgary Society can potentially be involved with. Thank you everyone!

We would also like to congratulate all who were elected to the Board of Project Ploughshares Calgary for the term of June 2017 to June 2018:

Trudy Govier, Chairperson

Lena Osman, Vice Chairperson

Kerry Duncan-McCartney, Secretary

Carl Svoboda, Treasurer

Jean Tollefson, Director

Bev DeLong, Director

Sally Hodges, Director

Shinobu Apple, Director

We look forward to exciting times as we move forward to new events and programs.

We thank the outgoing Board Members most sincerely for their dedicated services, guidance and time in guiding Project Ploughshares Calgary in uncertain times. Your commitment and friendship is appreciated and will be missed at meetings.

We would also like to update our readers on the status of our application for registration of the non-profit status of Ploughshares Calgary Society. When we last called to find out where our application was at, we were informed that it is taking approximately 3 months for applications to go thru the processing and so it will likely be August before we hear anything.

In the meantime, we sincerely request our supporters and donors to continue writing your donation cheques to Project Ploughshares Calgary. When we receive the non-profit status, these funds will be transferred to Ploughshares Calgary Society.

An Open Letter from Scientists in Support of the UN Nuclear Weapons Negotiations

Nuclear arms are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by an international convention, even though they are the most destructive and indiscriminate weapons ever created. We scientists bear a special responsibility for nuclear weapons, since it was scientists who invented them and discovered that their effects are even more horrific than first thought. Individual explosions can obliterate cities, radioactive fall-out can contaminate regions, and a high-altitude electromagnetic pulse may cause mayhem by frying electrical grids and electronics across a continent. The most horrible hazard is a nuclear-induced winter, in which the fires and smoke from as few as a thousand detonations might darken the atmosphere enough to trigger a global mini ice age with year-round winter-like conditions. This could cause a complete collapse of the global food system and apocalyptic unrest, potentially killing most people on Earth – even if the nuclear war involved only a small fraction of the roughly 14,000 nuclear weapons that today’s nine nuclear powers control. As Ronald Reagan said: “*A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.*”

Unfortunately, such a war is more likely than one may hope, because it can start by mistake, miscalculation or terrorist provocation. There is a steady stream of accidents and false alarms that could trigger all-out war, and relying on never-ending luck is not a sustainable strategy. Many nuclear powers have larger nuclear arsenals than needed for deterrence, yet prioritize making them more lethal over reducing them and the risk that they get used.

But there is also cause for optimism. On March 27 2017, an unprecedented process begins at the United Nations: most of the world’s nations convene to negotiate a ban on nuclear arms, to stigmatize them like biological and chemical weapons, with the ultimate goal of a world free of these weapons of mass destruction. We support this, and urge our national governments to do the same, because nuclear weapons threaten not merely those who have them, but all people on Earth.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact [Max Tegmark](#).

To date, this letter has been signed by 3711 scientists (this does not imply endorsement by their organizations)

Reprinted from: <https://futureoflife.org/nuclear-open-letter/>

Wishing you Happy , Safe and Peaceful Canada Day Celebrations!

**Happy
Birthday
CANADA**



Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony

Saturday, August 5th, 2017

8 pm – 10 pm

Olympic Plaza, Calgary

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



Info: office@ploughsharescalgary.ca; www.ploughsharescalgary.ca;

<http://www.2020visionforhumanity.com/memorial-lantern.html>;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Floating-Lantern-Peace-Ceremony-2017-157765184753700/>

Background Image: Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome



Hill Times May 31/17

By Douglas Roche

Leaders of the Canadian government who in the past few months have contented themselves with vapid excuses for not supporting efforts at the United Nations to prohibit nuclear weapons will have to work overtime to find credible reasons to maintain resistance now that the draft text of a convention has been released.

The heart of the matter is contained in Article 1 (a), in which each state party undertakes never under any circumstances to “develop, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.”

In other words, nuclear weapons are stigmatized, put beyond the pale and never to be a part of a nation’s armoury. The Canadian government, tied so closely to the nuclear policies of Washington and NATO, will not accept this. And more’s the sorrow. The integrity of the Canadian position that it really wants to do away with nuclear weapons, but not just yet, is in tatters.

For the past three years, a humanitarian movement, led by like-minded states and civil society activists, has gathered support from a majority of nations to develop a legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons because of the “catastrophic humanitarian consequence” of any use of such weapons. A resolution to start such negotiations was adopted at the U.N. last fall with 113 states in favour, 35 opposed and 13 abstentions. Canada voted no and refuses to participate in the process.

The United States instructed all its NATO partners to vote against the resolution on the ground that the negotiations aimed to “delegitimize the concept of nuclear deterrence upon which many U.S. allies and partners depend.” The U.S. was quite correct in this assessment. Delegitimizing nuclear weapons is exactly what this effort is all about.

The negotiations started in March with 130 states attending the opening round under the chairmanship of Ambassador Elayne Whyte of Costa Rica, who this week issued a draft text, which will be completed at the final round of discussions June 15-July 7.

The document is called a “convention,” which is an agreement between countries on particular matters that is less formal than a treaty. This terminology was used so as not to confuse the exercise with the existing Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which in its nearly half century of existence has failed to produce the elimination of all nuclear weapons. The draft convention holds that the NPT maintains its “crucial importance” as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. Rather than competing with the NPT, the new instrument is declared to be “an important contribution towards comprehensive nuclear disarmament.”

The reasons for this new boost to nuclear disarmament efforts are set out clearly: “the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons transcend national borders, pose grave implication for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and for the health of future generations.”

The leitmotif of the draft convention is the survival of humanity now threatened not just by the existence of some 15,000 nuclear weapons (about 95 percent in the hands of the U.S. and Russian) but the modernization process now under way in which all nine nuclear weapons states are increasing their power to inflict devastating damage on adversaries. The draft convention is basically the highest-level appeal to humanity ever made to end the nuclear arms race.

Although it will come into force when 40 states have ratified it, the convention will bind only those states which sign it. The disarmament process will be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency and disputes resolved by the International Court of Justice. The nuclear weapons states show every sign of ignoring all this. They will challenge the legality of the process and without the participation of the nuclear weapons states, the convention will likely be crippled.

But to take the legalistic view of the convention is to miss its importance as a milestone in the long struggle to rid the world of what has rightfully been called “the ultimate evil.” The new convention will help mobilize world public opinion to develop a universally binding ban. Nuclear disarmament is a moral issue of the highest order. It has to do with human beings seizing the power to annihilate life. Only a few days ago, Ban Ki-moon, the former U.N. Secretary-General, warned that “the world is moving closer to nuclear annihilation.”

In such a dire situation, the call to humanity to save itself is of a higher order than bureaucratic wrangling over legal points. That is the point more than 100 members of the Order of Canada made to Prime Minister Trudeau in appealing to him to reverse Canada’s present negative attitude towards the development of the convention and start putting Canada’s weight behind it.

It’s hard to imagine that Canada—that most trusted of world states—is boycotting a process to develop a legal measure to prohibit nuclear weapons just because the United States insists on maintaining its nuclear arsenals. The issue is not legality but humanity.

Former Senator Douglas Roche served as Canada’s Ambassador for Disarmament 1984-89 and is the author of Hope Not Fear: Building Peace in a Fractured World.

With thanks to Jim Creskey of Hill Times for permission to reprint Douglas Roche’s article.

What Books Are You Reading?

We would like to add to our readers' knowledge on peace and nonviolence and ask you to share with us what book (s) you are reading and why. What impact has it had on you?

Book Review

By Janyce Konkin

"Speaking My Truth: Reflections on Reconciliation & Residential School"

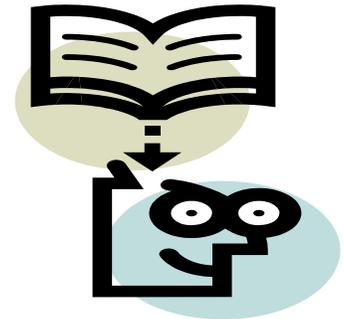
Edited by: Shelagh Rogers, Mike DeGagne, Jonathan Dewar, and Glen Lowry
Aboriginal Healing Foundation, 2012

This book is a series of essays that, I believe, should be in every book club, school and university course for the next 20+ years until every Canadian and newcomer has had the good fortune to read and absorb its messages and learn the reality of our shared history as Canadians.

Since the beginning of Canada's Truth & Reconciliation journey back before Stephen Harper even made his public apology to Indigenous People's in 2008, it has bothered me that we do not have a good understanding of our collective history. As a child of the 60s, First Nations people (then referred to only as "Indians") were never mentioned in our school books or in our day-to-day lives, other than as derogatory stereotypes from the local reserve. Why was that I wondered? I was blessed as a high school student to have been befriended by a girl from the local reserve in Grade 9. Her name was Sophie Eustace (now Pierre). We got along well and I remember sharing much laughter with her. After High School we lost touch, until our 45th High School Reunion a few years ago. I had heard that she had become Chief of her Reserve, but little more. I am happy to say that her journey is shared in this book, and is a most uplifting story. This compendium of essays fills in those blanks that so many of us have missing. It's an important part of the gaping hole not only in our education but also in our hearts.

The contents of this book are split into three separate sections: "From Truth to Reconciliation," "Response, Responsibility, and Renewal," and "Cultivating Canada." This is not a book that one sits to read from cover to cover in one or two sittings. Each story can generate intense feelings of sorrow, anger, shame, joy, amazement, and forgiveness. There is much to be learned and absorbed from each single story. To fully benefit, the reader must take the time to absorb the feelings provoked and to make a commitment to fully understand its implications on our own interactions as Canadians. For indeed, as Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the TRC has often stated, we must all learn that our journey to healing and reconciliation in Canada is "not an Aboriginal issue. It's a Canadian issue." And indeed, the last of the three-part sections confirms just how Canadian is this journey, as examples from Chinese- and Japanese-Canadian experiences are also shared.

Daily we have new immigrants arriving in Canada. If we want to do better in the future than we have done historically, I highly recommend that everyone should read the essays in this book with a view to changing our own interactions with others and reconsider what it really means to be "Canadian".





Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to all who submitted articles & Kerry Duncan-McCartney for editing this issue of the newsletter.



If you haven't already, please inform us whether you wish to continue receiving emails from us.

You may unsubscribe at any time by just emailing us your request. Thanks to all who have already responded.



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 June, we received \$6,810 in donations from individuals and \$300 in donations from Corporations/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
<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
Please note that we are unable to provide tax receipts at this time.