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# July 2022 Newsletter

## Building a Culture of Peace Month

**July 9th - August 9th**

Calgary Floating Lanterns successfully approached The City of Calgary, who have declared July 9 – August 9, 2022 as: Building A Culture of Peace Month.

## Introducing our New Board

Marya Jarvey, President; Anya Pena Egle, V-P; Trudy Govier, Past President; Noemi Flores, Treasurer; Bev DeLong, Director; John Glenney, Director; Deb Kocay, Director; Kiera Schultz, Director; Tatiana Oshchepkova, Director; and Jean Tollefson, Honourary Member



**CONTACT US NOW:**



COMMENTS IN TIME OF WAR



I write again in the middle of the terrible war in Ukraine. I write in my comfortable sunny office in Calgary at a time when Ukraine’s people are suffering death, injuries, destruction, and horrendous environmental damage. Their situation is terrible. Latest estimates are that more than seven million people have left the country. Alarming possibilities exist of the use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. In its support for Ukraine, the U.S., NATO, and even Canada have supplied billions of dollars worth of weapons to Ukraine.

The war may turn into one between NATO and Russia, featuring even more widespread destruction than at present. Risks are extremely serious.

And yet even now, we may find aspects to inspire us. As well as the heroism and dedication to country shown by Ukrainian citizens, there are powerful instances and narratives of resilience, nonviolent humanitarian efforts within Ukraine, and reception of refugees in many countries from Poland, Moldova, the United Kingdom, France, and Spain to Canada.

Anti-nuclear groups will feel that their long-urged warnings about the dangers of nuclear weapons are vindicated. Anti-war groups will feel the same: war is appalling and brings terrible fears and damage. Ploughshares Calgary is an anti-nuclear and anti-war group, and our members will share these sentiments. We were right! We are right! It’s always nice to be right, but it’s small consolation in this case. We can feel grateful for friends and family, for the safety we experience in our daily lives, and for the warmth and beauty of our world. But, given ongoing tragedies with no end in sight, such consolations can only be modest. We can only do our best to support all efforts for ending this destructive war, and acclaim the value of peace.

Trudy Govier

Past President (2017 -2022), The Ploughshares Calgary Society.



## BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE EXHIBITION

- Starts on July 9th and will run until July 7th, 2022 at the Central Library.
- This exhibition will display contributions from an on-going campaign, 1,000 Voices of Light, Creating a Culture of Peace, which showcases how individuals are able to build a culture of peace within their own lives.
- Will feature photos of past annual peace event, Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony
- Displays that explain "What Is A Culture of Peace?" along with Pyramids of Violence.
- Sadako's story and Hibakusha Testimonies
- The advocacy and activity of the SDG's (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution) adopted by the United Nations, which will be a collaboration with the United Nations Association of Canada – Calgary Branch
- Ploughshares Calgary Society proposed panels for Calgary Peace Museum.
- Besides this exhibit, we will have an online educational session on the Neuro-Diverse community
- On July 10th at 2:00pm (Room O-14) we will be showing The Vow from Hiroshima, along with an in-person talk and discussion. Special keynote speaker is Mr. Cesar Jaramillo, the Executive Director of Project Ploughshares and Chair of the Canadian Pugwash Group.
- Calgarians will also be provided with a free Peace Film Festival to be scheduled in a series of 4 weekends, starting from the third weekend of July.
- For those who wish to write in your own voice for peace in 100 words or less and contribute it to our 1000 Voices of Light Creating A Culture of Peace at [floatinglanternpeace@gmail.com](mailto:floatinglanternpeace@gmail.com).
- A huge thank you to our Sponsors: The City of Calgary; Calgary Downtown Association; Ploughshares Calgary Society; Leading Edge Art Workshops; United Nations Association in Canada - Calgary Branch; Humainologie; Calgary Central Library

### COME FIND US AT:

**Central Library, 800 3 St SE, Calgary, AB T2G 2E7**

**Shaikh Family Welcome Gallery**





**THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE, BY: YUI MATSUZAKA**

**Yui Matsuzaka is a Grade 6 student living in Calgary. She is studying at the FFCA (Foundations for the Future Charter Academy).**

I think we don't need nuclear weapons in this world because lots of people will be victims. I also think peace is very good for us. The reason why I think peace is good for us is because in Canada, the place we live, if it was not peaceful, maybe we would not be able to eat as much as we want and we might not have had a warm place to live. I read this book called "Build a Fortress of Peace" and the part that I thought was very important was the part where it said, "A Lot of the citizens' lives were taken away by a second and the rivers were full with the people who lost their lives." Another part is where it said, "In our future, we cannot use nuclear weapons again, no, I think it is an unnecessary thing to have and I want the people to realize that." The reason why I think that these two phrases were important was because I attended the floating lantern ceremony and I got an opportunity to read the letter from the Nagasaki mayor. The letter that the mayor of Nagasaki said, "Think about it, the world turns into a place where everyone can be happy, without nuclear weapons, and without war." At the floating peace ceremony there were lots of people from different backgrounds and what I thought was that "I hope that the mayor's words from Nagasaki would spread to as many people as possible. There are still countries that are fighting with war, and counties with nuclear weapons. My dream is that those countries are going to stop wars and get peaceful.

Thank you for listening to my presentation.





**GOOD NEWS**

- A long-standing dispute about the small Arctic island, Hans Island, has been resolved by diplomatic means. As a resolution of the conflict between Canada and Denmark over this matter, the rocky island has in effect been divided in half. (See the Globe and Mail for June 11, 2022, with comments about the value and feasibility of diplomacy by Prof. Michael Byers, UBC.)
- Ottawa activists have convinced Ottawa city council to join 'ban the bomb' efforts. On June 8, 2022, a motion to join the ICAN Cities appeal was passed unanimously by the council, in response to the sustained efforts of Ban the Bomb Ottawa.
- On June 15, 2022, the European Court of Human Rights ruled against a U.K. government process that would have deported some illegal refugees to the African country of Rwanda. The policy, agreed to by Rwanda and the United Kingdom, would have Rwanda house and process illegal refugees who sought refuge in the U.K. It was designed to deter people from dangerous crossing to the U.K. from France, often in crowded and inadequate small vessels. The policy was deemed incompatible with the letter and spirit of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which would require refugee claims from such persons to be heard in the U.K. Refugees entering the U.K. illegally could be subject to deportation without their claims ever being heard within the U.K. Note: there will likely be judicial review and appeals of the European court ruling.
- A Giant Tortoise, thought to be extinct since 1906, has been found on Fernandina, an active volcano isle located in the Western Galápagos. DNA from the found tortoise was compared with bones from a previous specimen and confirmed to be the Fernandina Giant Tortoise. This is uplifting news in the time where all animal and plant life is suffering from human development. (Futurism.com, June 14, 2022)



- Supporters in Cochrane, Alberta have helped some 50 Ukrainian families settle there during the war in Ukraine. Chantal Barber, an avid relocation volunteer over these past two months, stated that they have been using Facebook to connect with Ukrainian families and helping them connect to resources and services. On June 17th, the volunteers, hosts, and Ukrainian families got together for an event held at the Frank Wills Memorial Hall in Cochrane. Barber says that she could feel the relief and happiness coming from the Ukrainian families, having the ability to connect with their new community. Ukrainian families are expected to continue to arrive in Cochrane throughout the summer. (Calgary Herald, June 21, 2022)
- Calgary's Centre for Newcomers, an important and highly successful resource center for immigrants and refugees, has undergone a significant expansion. The new space is almost doubled in size, is close to city transit, and has an auditorium that can seat up to 200 people. The Centre for Newcomers offers a number of services which include language classes, youth programming and settlement services. The new space also has a daycare which will be accessible to the community. (Calgary Herald, June 20, 2022)
- Australia will attend the United Nations meeting regarding the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as an observer. Newly elected Labour Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has committed the country to signing the TPNW.





## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY 2022

### Staff Person Haylie Smith attended the Annual Reconciliation Walk in Calgary

June 21st was National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day for all Canadians to recognize the incredible and unique cultures, traditions and heritage of the Métis, First Nations and Inuit people.



June 21st also marked the 13th Reconciliation Walk in Calgary that takes place on Treaty 7 territory.

The walk started at the Harry Hays building and ended at Fort Calgary, going along the riverfront and underneath the Reconciliation Bridge (formerly the Langevin Bridge that was renamed in 2017). The walk was led by Indigenous drummers who paused every so often to perform a traditional song.

Participants were offered walking sticks, which were later revealed to have residential school names attached to them to signify the children walking with us. Some of the walking sticks were also left blank, honouring all of the lost children due to residential schools. Once the group arrived at Fort Calgary, we enjoyed talks from organizers, elders, and Indigenous students from UArts. After the speakers we were treated to more traditional drumming and singing while dancers from the Siksika nation performed. It was stated by one of the elders that reconciliation cannot take place without settlers involvement and acknowledgement of wrong doings. As a non-Indigenous settler, I felt honoured to be included in the festivities and to bear witness to the deep and meaningful culture shared by all the Indigenous persons present.



# AN OPEN LETTER TO JUSTIN TRUDEAU ON BEHALF OF SCIENCE FOR PEACE

**June 22, 2022**

**By: Nuclear Weapons Working Group**

We write to you today as one last attempt to convince your government to adopt a policy in line with the preference of the vast majority of your citizens, with respect to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which came into effect last year. It was only a few months ago that the P5 countries (all nuclear powers including China and Russia) issued a joint statement that a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought. Nonetheless, as I am sure you are aware, the danger of a nuclear war has never been greater than at this moment and none of the current nuclear states, or Canada, have signed on to the treaty. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has kept its Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight (the closest we have ever been to nuclear self-destruction of our species) since January 2020, in response to the abrogation by the U.S. of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Agreement and the Open Skies Treaty – after the administration of George W. Bush abandoned the U.S. commitment to the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. As Angela Kane, the former UN High Representative for Disarmament and Undersecretary General starkly put it: “The arms control architecture which constituted a strong pillar of strategic stability even in the highly rivalrous Cold War environment has crumbled.”

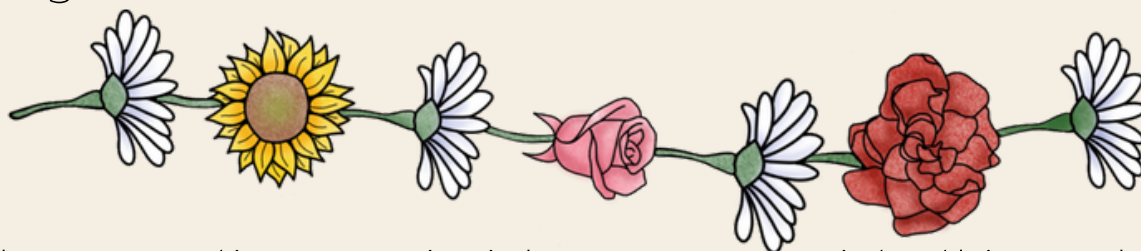






## AN OPEN LETTER TO JUSTIN TRUDEAU ON BEHALF OF SCIENCE FOR PEACE

All of this was before Russia invaded Ukraine, raising tensions between the two largest nuclear powers on the planet to unprecedented levels. With president Putin warning of “consequences the likes of which have never been seen” for any country doing what NATO is currently doing: arming Ukraine, how long until a tactical nuclear weapon is deployed or a NATO country supplying arms is attacked, leading to a tit for tat escalation to a full nuclear exchange? We are in fact already in a nuclear war if we accept that the mere threat of nuclear attack (implicit in Putin’s warning) is use of nuclear weapons. We would argue that a state’s mere possession of nuclear weapons is an implicit threat to use them. Neither the use, threat or possession of nuclear weapons are in keeping with existing international humanitarian law or basic morality. International law unambiguously outlaws the targeting of civilian populations. Clearly nuclear weapons, by the scale of their destructive powers are contrary to this prohibition, quite independently from the TPNW.



If ever the precautionary principle was appropriate, this would seem to be the time: it advises that in the context of a potentially catastrophic risk, reducing that risk must take precedence over all secondary considerations. It is this concern, in particular the call of humanitarian empathy, that prompted the international community to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, while having slowed the spread of nuclear weapons, has clearly failed in getting the existing nuclear powers to live up to their commitment to work toward the elimination of their stockpiles. While the TPNW is unlikely to compel nuclear states to surrender their arsenals, it is an important step in delegitimizing nuclear weapons as a tool of statecraft and making those holdout states pariahs.



## AN OPEN LETTER TO JUSTIN TRUDEAU ON BEHALF OF SCIENCE FOR PEACE

Canada is not a nuclear state. Does your government really believe that the possession of nuclear weapons by other powers around the world makes Canada safer? If so, how? If not, what possible reason would prevent Canada from signing on to the TPNW? More than 70% of Canadians support doing so. The claim that our NATO membership precludes signing the treaty has already been debunked by an extensive study by Harvard Law School. While none of the NATO members have signed the treaty, several are at least attending the first meeting of parties to the treaty rescheduled for June 21-23. It is your duty, dear ministers, to assure the safety of our country and its citizens and to reflect the opinions of the majority of those who elected you. Both of these duties compel you to reconsider your rejection of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

*An open letter to prime minister Justin Trudeau on behalf of science for peace. CounterPunch.org. (2022, June 20). Retrieved June 27, 2022, from <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/06/22/an-open-letter-to-prime-minister-justin-trudeau-on-behalf-of-science-for-peace/>*

