



# 2026 SPRING ISSUE

A secure world without war. A just world at peace.

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## AGM OF 2026



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 2026  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH

### STAY IN TOUCH



[OFFICE@PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA](mailto:OFFICE@PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA)



@ PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY



@ PLOUGHSHARES\_CALGARY



[PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA](http://PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA)

# BECOME A MEMBER!

P.1

## Join Us! Become an Official Member!

Ploughshares Calgary Society (PCS) is reviewing our governance and official membership to strengthen ourselves as an organization committed to educating on peace and justice.

### Membership Details

1 year term, beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st of the same year

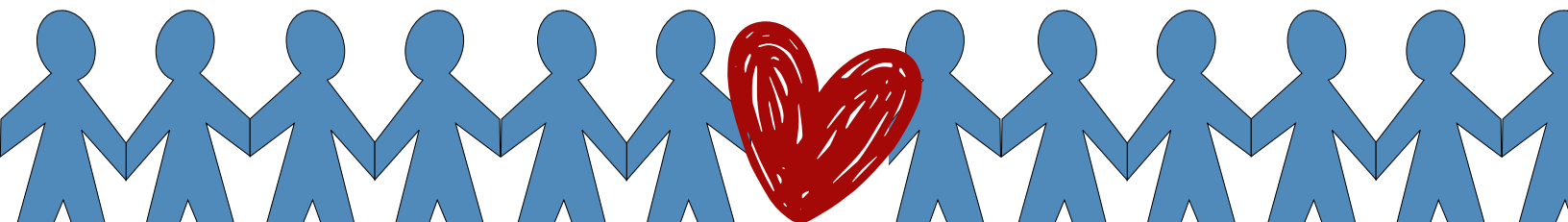
**\$25.00** or pay what you can

Join now and you become a member until December 31st, 2026. Includes membership perks such as AGM voting privileges, exclusive events and workshops, volunteer opportunities. [Click here to see more info.](#)

Interested in signing up?

**SIGN UP HERE!**

[BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!](#)



JUNE  
**17**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Please join us for our 2026 AGM through [details here](#)

In-Person

Location: Parkdale United Church

Free. 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

AUG  
**8**

## **LANTERN PEACE FESTIVAL: GLOBAL CROSSROAD**

TIME: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: DEVONIAN GARDENS (4TH FLOOR, CORE SHOPPING CENTER, 317 7 AVE SW)

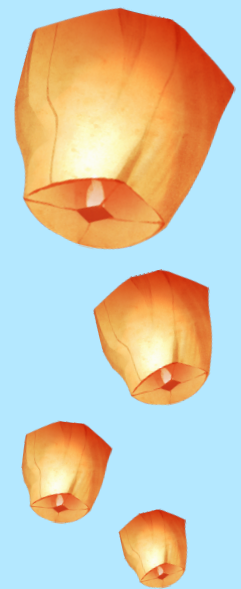
COST: FREE ADMISSION (PLUS 3 HOURS OF FREE WEEKEND PARKING AT THE CORE!)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we'll reflect on the past year's achievements, share key updates, and discuss future plans and priorities. This is a great opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and have your voice heard in shaping the direction of our organization. All members and community supporters are welcome to attend and be part of the conversation as we move forward together.

## CALGARY FLOATING LANTERNS

Floating lanterns with handwritten peace messages at Devonian Gardens will reflect Calgarians' shared hope for a peaceful, nuclear-free future. The event features music, performances, vendors, and multicultural messages of peace while commemorating the lives lost in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It honours survivors, supports nuclear disarmament, and recognizes the Mayors for Peace initiative, inspired by the annual lantern floating tradition that began in Hiroshima in 1948 and is now observed worldwide.



**This is a FREE event, with lots to enjoy for all ages!**

**1 lantern-launch = \$10**

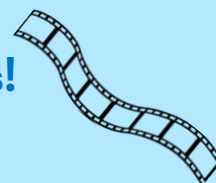
**\*All donations are in direct support of this event.**

## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL 2026

The Peace Film Festival is a part of celebrating a culture of Peace Month August 2026. It features a diverse selection of films that explore themes of social justice, human rights, disarmament, and the power of community. By showcasing powerful stories from around the world, the festival aims to foster understanding, empathy, and action.



**Stay tuned for more details!**



## **Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" is anything but**

Alex Neve argues that Donald Trump's newly created "Board of Peace," despite its name, is a self-serving project that marginalizes Palestinians, undermines established international institutions like the United Nations, and risks reinforcing global power imbalances rather than genuinely advancing peace and human rights.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Türk says U.S. operation in Venezuela clearly undermines fundamental principle of international law**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights warned that the recent U.S. military operation in Venezuela violated fundamental principles of international law by using force against another state's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and stressed that accountability for human rights abuses must be pursued through lawful, victim-centered processes rather than unilateral intervention. The UN rights office also expressed concern that the resulting instability and emergency measures could worsen conditions for the Venezuelan people, and called on all parties to respect international law and human rights.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Reuters Reports Lebanon Calls for International Pressure to Stop Escalation**

Reuters reported that Lebanese officials urged greater international diplomatic pressure to halt ongoing Israeli attacks and prevent further destruction in southern Lebanon. The article highlighted growing concerns over civilian displacement, damaged infrastructure, and the risk of a wider regional conflict if tensions continue to escalate.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Human Rights Watch Says Civilians in Lebanon and Israel Remain at "Grave Risk"**

Human Rights Watch warned that ongoing exchanges of fire between Israel and Hezbollah continue to endanger civilians on both sides of the border, with attacks affecting homes, infrastructure, and emergency services. The organization called for immediate measures to protect civilians and renewed diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing further regional escalation.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Is Russia-Ukraine War coming to an end?**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he believes the war in Ukraine is “coming to an end” and expressed openness to negotiating new European security arrangements, despite previously vowing to continue fighting until Russia’s goals are achieved. His comments came during a scaled-back Victory Day celebration in Moscow, as the ongoing war continues to strain Russia’s economy and relations with the West.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Global Military Spending Reaches Record High, Raising Concerns Over Humanitarian Priorities**

A SIPRI report released in April 2026 found global military spending reached about \$2.9 trillion in 2025, marking another year of record growth and an 11-year upward trend. The report warns that rising defence budgets are increasingly diverting resources away from urgent global needs such as healthcare, climate resilience, poverty reduction, and conflict prevention. Researchers also note that escalating geopolitical tensions are driving renewed arms build-ups, even as humanitarian crises continue to intensify across multiple regions.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Growing Bread Lines in Gaza as Israel Restricts Fuel and Flour**

Bread shortages are worsening across Gaza as restrictions on fuel and flour imports continue to disrupt bakeries and food distribution. Aid workers report long queues for basic bread, with many families waiting for hours as supply levels fall and prices rise.

Humanitarian groups warn that limited access to essential goods is deepening an already severe crisis, calling for expanded aid entry and protections for civilians under international law.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## **Ex-Senior Diplomats Urge Sanctions on Israel**

Nearly 200 former Canadian diplomats are calling on Prime Minister Mark Carney’s government to impose stronger sanctions on Israel over worsening conditions in Gaza and Lebanon. The letter urges Canada to review trade agreements and increase pressure to uphold international law, citing restrictions on aid access, attacks affecting civilians, and growing instability across the region.

To view the full article, click [here](#).

## TO SUPPORT VIOLENCE OR NONVIOLENCE — THAT IS THE QUESTION

The article by Peter T. Coleman argues that while violent resistance may feel justified against oppression, research shows non-violent resistance is empirically more effective than violent tactics in achieving lasting political change, drawing on historical examples and scholarly studies to suggest nonviolence should be seriously considered for pursuing justice and peace.



To read the full piece, [click here](#).

## THE POWER OF PEACEFUL PROTESTS

Peaceful protests have historically been powerful tools for social and political change, from Gandhi's Salt March to the U.S. Montgomery Bus Boycott and modern climate strikes, showing that non-violent action—sometimes by even a small percentage of the population—can build broad consensus and lead to meaningful reform while often facing growing legal and governmental resistance.

To read the full piece, [click here](#).



## 8 MYTHS ABOUT NON-VIOLENT ACTIVISM (FROM A MOVEMENT THAT OVERTHREW A DICTATOR)

Non-violent activism is a highly effective tool for social and political change, showing that carefully planned campaigns can mobilize broad support, weaken oppressive power structures, and achieve lasting results more often than violent resistance. It also challenges common misconceptions about nonviolent movements, highlighting their strategic and organized nature.

To view the full article [click here](#).



*Ploughshares Calgary* was originally established in 1982 as one of 9 local groups supporting the mandate of the national anti-nuclear and pro-peace organization, **Project Ploughshares**. Due to requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency, we are now a separate organization. We share fundamental values and continue a productive relationship.



## **AFTER CONTAINMENT**

March 26, 2026

The global nuclear system is becoming more dangerous as arms-control agreements weaken and countries increasingly rely on nuclear threats and advanced technologies like AI and cyber systems in military strategy.

To view the full analysis click [here](#).

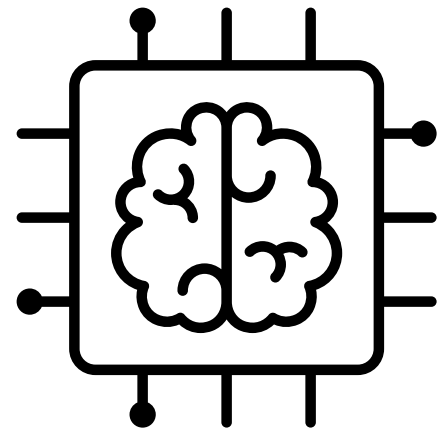


## **THE AUTONOMOUS CONDUCTOR?**

March 29, 2026

AI-powered decision-support tools are making military command and control faster and more automated, but this could reduce human judgment and accountability while increasing the risk of rapid escalation in conflict.

To view the full article click [here](#).

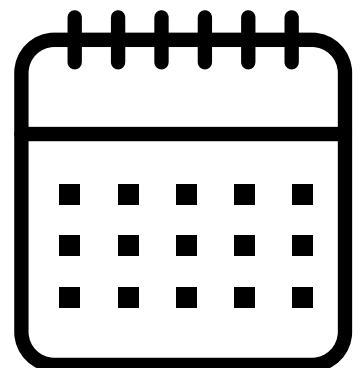


## **A RECORD YEAR**

March 29, 2026

In FY 2025 (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025), \$2.07 billion in contracts were concluded, and 2025 was a record year for global conflict, military spending, and arms transfers, highlighting a growing and increasingly unstable international security environment.

To view the full analysis, click [here](#).



## **Canadian Peace Museum takes root in rural Ontario**

The Canadian Peace Museum, is a new charity-run institution in Bancroft, Ontario, created by volunteers to promote peace, justice and dialogue through exhibits, education, and community events. It explains the museum's broad vision of peace—not just the absence of war but the presence of equity, health, and understanding—and describes plans for its permanent home, partnerships, and upcoming exhibits aimed at sparking conversations about peace at home and around the world.

([The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs \(DPPA\)](#))



## **5 Years Since the Nuclear Ban Went into Effect!**

Marking the five-year anniversary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Celebrating that the treaty has now made nuclear weapons illegal under international law and helped strengthen global norms against their use, supported nuclear justice and victim assistance efforts, and encouraged financial divestment from nuclear arms production while engaging a broad movement toward total disarmament. ([The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#))

## **El Astro Farm in Colombia Shows Peacebuilding Through Agriculture and Reintegration**

On a farm in Guacarí, Valle del Cauca, 44 people—including 19 former combatants—are working alongside local farmers to build a peaceful and sustainable rural economy. The project combines agroecology, fish farming, and solar energy while promoting reintegration and reconciliation in post-conflict areas. Participants say the initiative has helped strengthen community ties and create stable livelihoods, showing how cooperation between former armed actors and civilians can support long-term peacebuilding. ([United Nations](#))

## **IT IS NOW 85 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT**

The Doomsday Clock is the closest it has ever been to midnight. On January 27, 2026, the Doomsday Clock was moved to 85 seconds before midnight. In response the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board urged immediate steps to curb nuclear weapons, establish international rules for artificial intelligence, and strengthen multilateral cooperation to confront growing biological threats.

To learn more, [click here](#).



*“heightened military expenditure does not necessarily lead to greater peace or stability.” p.6*

## **THE SECURITY WE NEED:**

### **REBALANCING MILITARY SPENDING FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND PEACEFUL FUTURE**

United Nations Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the global increase in military expenditure on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Read the full report [here](#).

## **EXPERTS ANALYZE THE CONFLICT IN IRAN** – RAPID RESPONSE VIDEO

In the immediate aftermath, several clear questions emerge: After the initial strikes, will the conflict continue? Will it spread? What will happen to existing Iranian nuclear material in the chaos of war? What diplomatic off-ramps are available? The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and a panel of experts provides up-to-the-minute analysis of these developments and what to expect next

To watch the full video, click [here](#).

## **FACTS ABOUT THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT**

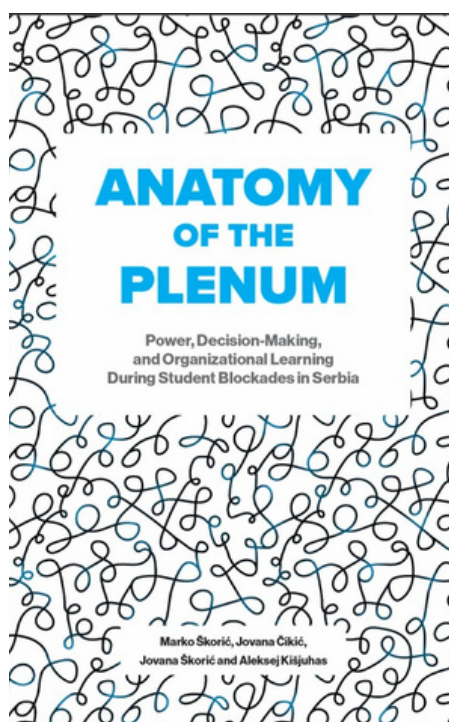
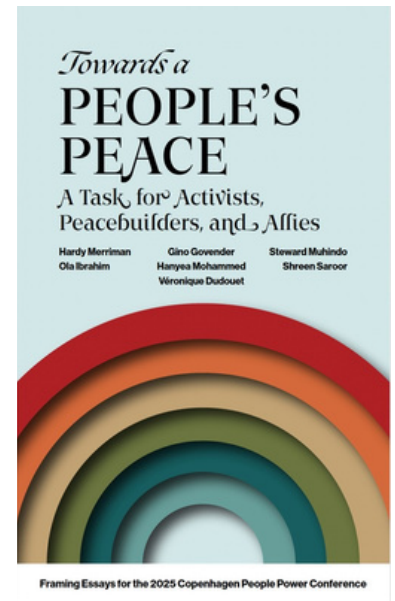
The anti-war movement grew from student protests against the Vietnam War in the 1960s into widespread public demonstrations, fueled by rising casualties, the draft, and moral, economic, and legal opposition to the conflict.

To read the full PDF, click [here](#).

## TOWARDS A PEOPLE'S PEACE: A TASK FOR ACTIVISTS, PEACEBUILDERS, AND ALLIES

This book brings together cutting-edge research and first-person accounts from activists and peacebuilders on the frontlines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka, alongside insights for a global solidarity movement from activists in Palestine, Ukraine, and Lebanon. It offers a bold vision for how movements can shape peace and security, and practical lessons for policymakers and allies committed to supporting peace from below.

For more information and access to the publication, [click here](#).



## ANATOMY OF THE PLENUM

What really happens inside a movement when people decide to govern themselves? Anatomy of the Plenum takes readers inside the student blockades that swept universities in Serbia after the deadly Novi Sad railway station collapse, offering a rare, ground-level view of how ordinary students built extraordinary systems of collective decision-making. Drawing on dozens of in-depth interviews, this special report reveals how plenums—horizontal, participatory assemblies—became living laboratories of democracy: spaces where students debated strategy, managed conflict, organized logistics, confronted repression, and wrestled with the messy realities of direct rule by the many.

To download your free copy, [click here](#).

## SECURITY & CLIMATE AT COP26

This video argues that the arms trade is linked to conflict, corruption, and the climate crisis, yet is often excluded from climate talks. It challenges the belief that higher military spending increases security and promotes a shift toward nonviolence and sustainable approaches to global safety.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to the series.

