2026 FALL ISSUE

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

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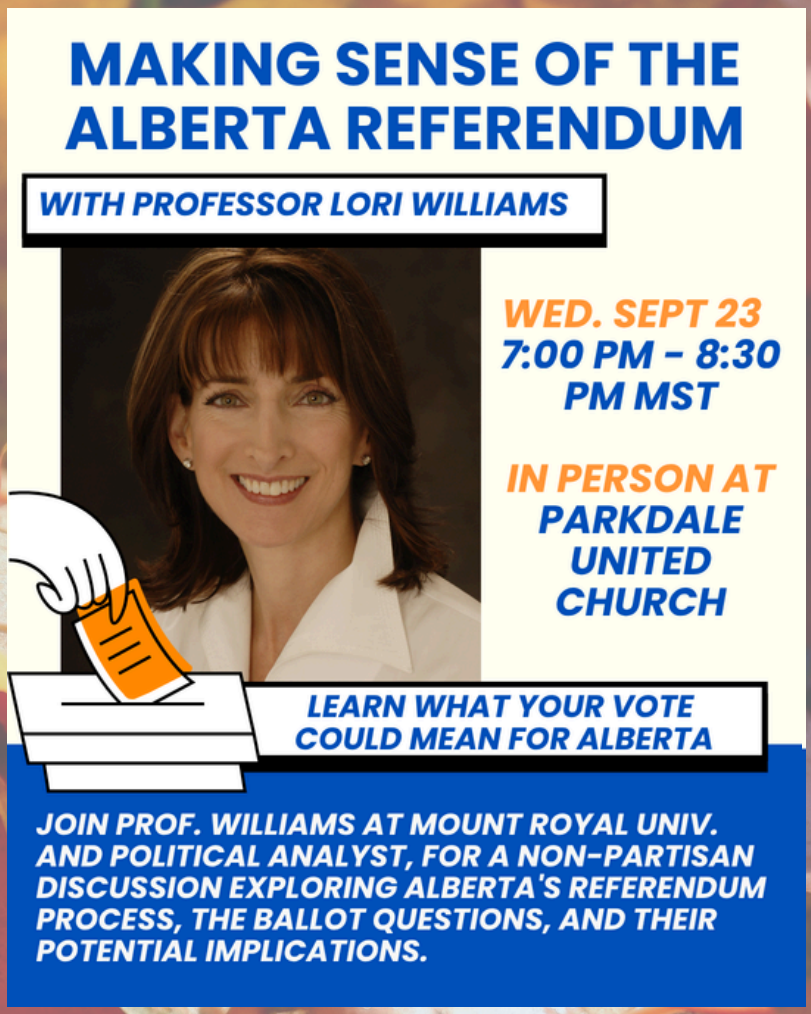

STAY IN TOUCH

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BECOME A MEMBER!

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

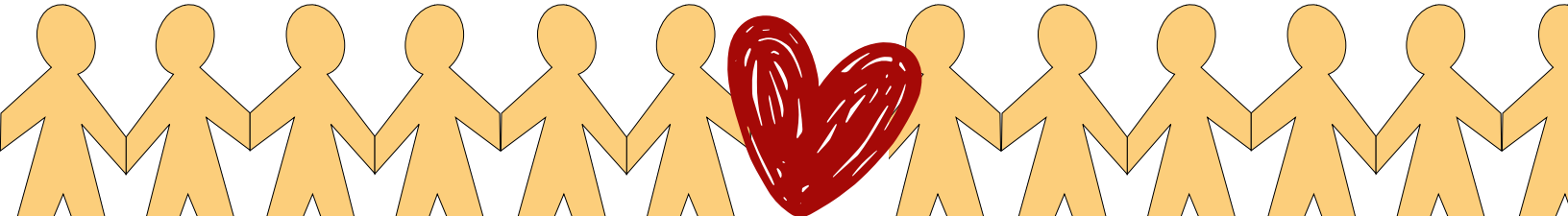
$25.00 or pay what you can

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!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT **17**

CJFF JUSTREEL COMMUNITY EVENT

Join the Calgary Justice Film Festival in partnership with the Stardale Women's Group for a special CJFF justREEL community event with **free registration here**.
Location: The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland at 6:00 PM

SEPT **20**

CALGARY PEACE WALK

Join a walk together for peace with **registration here**.
Location: Peace Bridge, Downtown Calgary
Free Tickets. 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

SEPT **23**

MAKING SENSE OF THE ALBERTA REFERENDUM

Please join us for our event with speaker Prof. Lori Williams through **registration and info here.**
In-Person at Parkdale United Church
Free Tickets. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

SEPT **27**

HEARTFULNESS CALGARY PEACE DAY EVENT

Bringing together everyone on a meaningful discussion of peace with **details here**.
Location: Calgary Central Library
Free Tickets. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT **30**

CJFF justREEL Luncheon: NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

A special luncheon and screening of *Honour to Murray Sinclair* with more **details here** provided. Tickets at $32.
Location: The Calgary Petroleum Club. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

OCT **24**

THIRD ANNUAL BUILDING PEACE GALA

A gala celebrating the third annual Partners' global relief aid for children and families in conflict zones with **more details here.** Tickets at $65.
Location: The Calgary Petroleum Club. 7 PM - 10:30 PM

NOV **5**

CALGARY FILM JUSTICE FESTIVAL

A three-day annual documentary film festival taking place between Nov 5-7 with **upcoming details here.**
Location: The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland
Free event. TBD

Russia pounds Kyiv one day after visit by Witkoff and Kushner

Russia struck Ukraine's capital Kyiv with missiles and drones on Tuesday morning, killing five people and wounding nearly 30 others, one day after US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner visited the region in an attempt to kickstart stalled peace talks. The attack, which hit residential buildings, a TV newsroom, a school, and even a padel club co-founded by tennis star Elina Svitolina, marked the end of a 72-hour truce that had paused strikes on each other's capitals during the weekend of diplomacy.

To view the full article, click **here.**

Holy See to UN: Nuclear testing harms more than one generation

Marking the International Day Against Nuclear Tests on September 1, Monsignor Robert D. Murphy of the Holy See's UN Mission renewed the Vatican's appeal to end nuclear testing, warning that its effects with physical, psychological, social and environmental impacts may linger across generations, especially for Indigenous and affected communities. Citing evidence of more than 2,000 tests between 1945 and 2017, he urged the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to finally take effect, called for existing moratoria to be observed, and reaffirmed the Holy See's support for the Non-Proliferation and Prohibition treaties, arguing that disarmament is essential to "a just and lasting peace."

To view the full article, click **here.**

UN chief demands Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon amid Nabatieh escalation

The UN Secretary-General called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and demanded that Israel withdraw its forces from Lebanese territory amid intensifying operations in and around Nabatieh, condemning "mounting civilian casualties" and "scenes of massive destruction." Around 20,000 people fled Nabatieh District last week, with healthcare under increasing pressure, while UNIFIL recorded 528 Israeli projectiles between Thursday and Monday and 62 airspace violations on Sunday alone — among the highest daily totals since June. The UN appealed for respect for international humanitarian law and for all sides to uphold Security Council resolution 1701.

To view the full article, click **here.**

Will Trump succeed in restarting Russia-Ukraine peace talks?

The trip by Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Moscow and Kyiv was "positive" per all sides, but details are scant — and Russia's position has only hardened. Moscow still demands Ukrainian neutrality, no Western military presence, retention of occupied territories, a Ukrainian withdrawal from the remaining Donbas pocket, army size caps, and freer elections for Russia-friendly parties. Ukraine's summer strikes on Russian oil infrastructure were meant to coerce Putin into compromise, but the opposite happened: Russia is now even less open to negotiation and is striking Ukraine's economy instead. The envoys being received personally by Putin signals a change of tack in Washington.

To view the full article, click **here.**

Sudan's healthcare system on brink of collapse, MSF warns

MSF (Doctors Without Borders) warned that international aid cuts are pushing millions off essential services, with more patients crowding a shrinking number of facilities amid intensifying violence and displacement. About 37 percent of Sudan's health facilities are out of service, the UN's response plan is only 41 percent funded, and some 19.5 million people faced crisis-level hunger earlier this year. MSF linked the closures to the shutdown of USAID — whose Sudan grants ended in June — and reduced European aid, urging governments at the UN General Assembly to protect health funding. The war between Sudan's army and the RSF has killed at least 59,000 people and displaced about 14 million since April 2023.

To view the full article, click **here.**

Public Interest Alberta launches "no to the nine" campaign

Public Interest Alberta launched a provincewide campaign urging Albertans to vote to remain in Canada and reject the referendum's nine other questions. Executive director Bradley Lafortune called the referendum an "intentional distraction" that scapegoats newcomers, arguing Alberta's real priorities are health care, education, and affordability. MRU professor Duane Bratt said he couldn't "stand on the sidelines," calling one question about breaking up the country, four as partially breaking it up, and five as "xenophobic and racist." Both warned that long voting times and low turnout could help separatists, since "every single one of those separatists is going to vote."

To view the full article, click **here.**

TEN ACTIONS FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

TThe UN's "Ten Actions for a Peaceful World" is a practical guide for how ordinary people can build peace in daily life — through speaking up for peace, saying no to violence, practicing understanding, reporting bullying, protesting inequality, embracing diversity, supporting peace advocates, and posting with care online. The core message: peace is a call to action, and each of us can "be the change you want to see."

To read the full piece, **click here.**

SOCIAL MEDIA: A TOOL FOR PEACE OR CONFLICT?

This SIPRI backgrounder examines social media's dual role in peace and conflict, showing how it has helped activists organize peaceful protest and counter extremism while also amplifying division and disinformation. To promote peace, it urges peacebuilders, policymakers, tech companies, and citizens to use social media for conflict analysis, early warning, and counter-messaging — and to redesign it to favour consensus over conflict.

To read the full piece, **click here.**

BUILDING PEACE IN A WORLD PREPARING FOR WAR: STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030

Conciliation Resources' Strategic Plan 2026-30 focuses on demonstrating the value of sustained peace mediation and lasting political solutions to conflict. Built around five strategic priorities, it commits to standing by its practice foundations while adapting to the evolving peacebuilding landscape through new approaches and relationships across 20 countries. Success, it says, will require courage, creativity, and solidarity.

To view the full publication, **click here.**

PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

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.*

THE PLOUGHSHARES MONITOR: SUMMER 2026

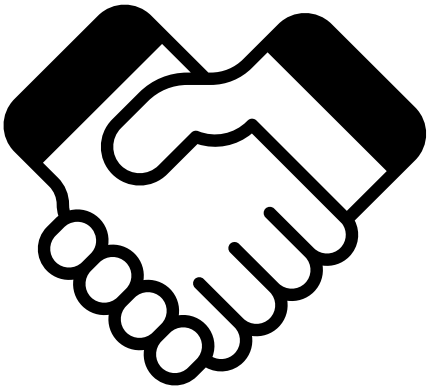
June 26, 2026

This 50th-anniversary issue examines Canada's role in peace and security, arguing against Canadian nuclear weapons and warning that its growing arms exports face diminishing accountability

To view full publication, click **here.**

WHEN TRUSTS BREEDS VULNERABILITY

March 29, 2026



This article argues that AI-driven disinformation is a core national security threat to Canada, operating in the "grey zone" between peace and war. Because Canada's high public trust makes falsehoods spread quickly, trust itself becomes the vulnerability.

To view the full article, click **here.**

AUTONOMOUS NORTH

March 29, 2026

Climate change and new technology are transforming the Arctic, creating new opportunities and challenges for security, resources, and the environment. Canada must balance these interests while promoting cooperation and responsible use of AI.

To view the full article, click **here.**

GOOD NEWS

Premier says no to massive AI data centre proposed for south of Winnipeg

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew has rejected a proposed AI data centre on farmland south of Winnipeg, saying hyperscale facilities aren't in Manitobans' best interests. The natural-gas-powered project drew 13,500+ petition signatures over pollution concerns. Kinew cited environmental and rural impacts, opposition to "surveillance capitalism," and skepticism about economic benefits, comparing the rush to a gold rush bubble (**CBC NEWS**).

The mobile library bringing books to rural Syria

A mobile library initiative is bringing books to children and communities in rural Syria, where years of conflict have devastated schools and access to education. The project uses a vehicle to deliver books and reading programs to areas cut off from libraries and learning, offering a small but meaningful way to restore normalcy, hope, and opportunity amid the ongoing hardship. It reflects the broader effort to rebuild community life and resilience in a country still recovering from war (**Positive News Peace Archives**).

Belligerents in 6-year Military Standoff Agree to Swap Rifles for Ballots

The belligerents in Libya's six-year military standoff have agreed to end the conflict through elections rather than continued fighting — a shift from rifles to ballots. The agreement represents a peaceful path forward after years of armed confrontation, offering hope for a political resolution to the standoff (**Good News Network**).

French Polynesia expands ocean protections to 30% of its waters

French Polynesia has expanded its marine protections to cover 30% of its waters, marking a significant step for ocean conservation. The move extends protections across a vast area of the South Pacific, aiming to safeguard marine biodiversity, ecosystems, and the livelihoods of local communities that depend on healthy oceans. It reflects a growing regional and global push toward large-scale ocean protection (**MONGABAY**).

RESOURCES

PEACE MAGAZINE: JUL-SEPT 2026 ISSUE

The July-September 2026 issue of Peace Magazine centers on how to prevent war, headlined by a piece on how Sudan's war might have been avoided and a practical guide to war-prevention tools. It also explores UN reform, the overlooked role of organized crime in conflict, and voices from Gaza and Cox's Bazar.

To learn more, **click here.**

NEWLY CREATED VIRUSES ARE A WARNING. WE STILL HAVE A WINDOW TO STOP AI-ENABLED BIOWEAPONS

AI-designed viruses could soon outpace nature, enabling transmissible bioweapons worse than past attacks. We must restrict access to the enabling tools and data — and build deterrent defenses — while the window is still open.

Read the full article **here.**

NUCLEAR POLICY AND THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK TODAY

The 2026 Doomsday Clock sits at 85 seconds to midnight, its closest ever, citing nuclear arsenals, ungoverned AI, and biological threats as the main dangers. The heaviest weight is nuclear risk — with Russia's Ukraine war and New START suspension plus China's arsenal buildup, the board says the solutions are known but political will is missing.

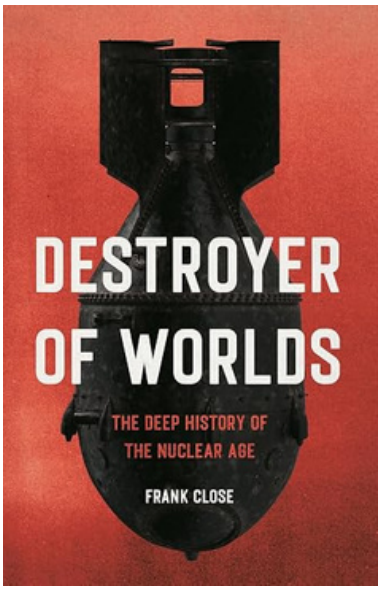
To watch the full video, click **here.**

A NUCLEAR ODYSSEY AT SEA

ATLAS is an IAEA road map for commercial nuclear power at sea — floating plants and nuclear-propelled ships. Before deployment, stakeholders must reconcile the nuclear and maritime governance systems (IAEA vs. IMO), define responsibilities, and prove commercial viability.

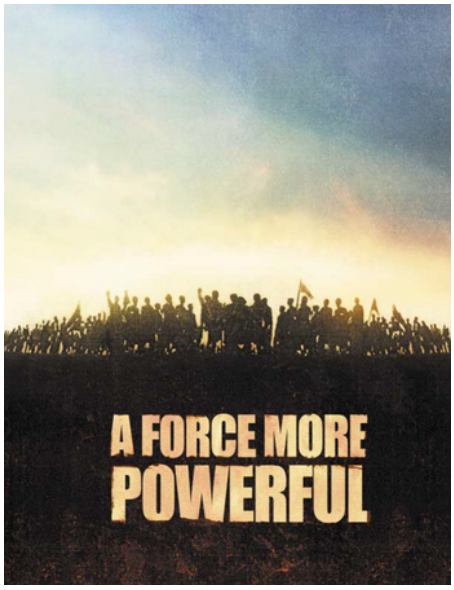
To read the full report, click **here.**

DESTROYER OF WORLDS: THE DEEP HISTORY OF THE NUCLEAR AGE



Destroyer of Worlds by Frank Close is the thrilling seventy-year story of the physicists who deciphered the atom and built the hydrogen bomb — from Becquerel's accidental discovery of radioactivity in 1896 to the terrifying weapons that could destroy all life on Earth. Centered on figures like Rutherford, Fermi, Joliot-Curie, and Teller, it charts nuclear physics from simple curiosity to potential Armageddon, earning a Guardian Best Book of the Year nod. The book is now available — to purchase, visit your favorite bookseller.

To purchase, visit **click here.**



A FORCE MORE POWERFUL - ICNC FILMS

A Force More Powerful is a documentary series showing how nonviolent resistance toppled oppression across the 20th century, organized into two episodes of three cases each. Episode 1 covers India (Gandhi's civil disobedience against British rule), the USA (Nashville's lunch-counter desegregation, and South Africa (anti-apartheid boycotts). Episode 2 covers Denmark (resistance disguised as collaboration under Nazi occupation, Poland (Solidarity's rise, and Chile (the 1988 referendum that defeated Pinochet.

To visit the site and watch documentary, **click here.**

TEACHING PEACE IN HIGHER EDUCATION - CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Experts including Andrew Feinstein, Alana Lentin, and Stuart Parkinson expose how militarisation turns universities into tools for endless war — and how to resist it.

To view the video on YouTube, **click here.**