



**Our Mission**

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the Iraqi crisis.

We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally.

We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations.

**The Boundary Peace Initiative meets: 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7 pm Selkirk College.**

**Things To Do**

**Walk with the World: No to Training in Afghanistan by Canadians! April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm walk from Lois Hagan Park (beside Grand Forks City Hall) followed by rally @ The Source.**



**Thank You**

By: Laura Savinkoff

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) extends our deep gratitude to all who contributed and donated their time, energy, food towards our annual participation in the No Boundaries Film Festival as well as all those who donated dollars towards our work to help create a world free of fear, violence, abuse and environmental destruction of which war, invasion, occupation is the ultimate expression. A special note of gratitude goes to the No Boundaries Film Club for making this possible; for without this small group the Boundary would not have the opportunity to learn about so many issues needing our attention as global citizens and the BPI would not have the opportunity to raise the funds needed to carry on our work. I will not even attempt to list the dedicated and caring people who are so generous in their support of the BPI efforts. These funds help us publish this newsletter; organize events, offset office expenses and so many other things.

We thank you and look forward to another year of activities that promote and work towards our mutual goal, locally, nationally and internationally, changing the attitude of might is right to one of equality, justice, peaceful living which is more than simply an absence of armed conflict. For it is poverty, inequality, disenfranchisement, disaffection, injustice, abuse, violation of human and civil rights, and outright greed by the few that leads to conflict and does escalate to war, invasion, and occupation.

We must continue to work locally, nationally and internationally to stop the disregard by the elite for the majority. Remember that in the larger scheme of things the way we treat and approach the needy, those in poverty, the homeless, the disadvantaged, those different from us (by race, religion, culture, traditions, social and economic standing) reflects our humanity. Our actions speak much louder than our words. So, it is vital, that we, the majority, stand up for and act in support of all of Creation, not only those we agree with, those who can provide us with something we want.

And that is why the BPI exists. That is why the CPA exists. That is why around the world groups exist and do their utmost to work together not only for local benefits but for the benefit of our global family.

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**Thank You**

It is important that we speak out when we see, feel or hear of abuses that lead to destructive behavior, methods or approaches. For even here in the Boundary, injustices exist, abuse exists, violence exists, and inequality exists. We have our homeless, we have our poor, and we have our marginalized. And we also have those instances where we inadvertently participate in the militarization of our world.

Last month we asked a question, your opinion on whether Grand Forks is violating its own resolutions and therefore complicit in the Nuclear industry by selling slag to the nuclear weapons equipped US Pacific Fleet that participates in the oppression of so many of the worlds people—Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. Sadly, I have received no responses. I am sure many of you do have an opinion. Although you may feel your opinion is not important may I assure that it is. Unless we the people, voice our opinions and feelings and thoughts and ideas, the status quo continues and the slide into oppressive empire building continues. The BPI is open to all opinions whether you agree with us or not. Dialogue is important for we learn from each other and can only reach a consensus, an agreement, if we share our opinions. I encourage you, my friends, my neighbors, my brothers and sisters to share your opinions so we can dialogue and then come to a compromise and an action plan.

Again, thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to working as a community, as sisters and brothers, as a global family so that our children and grandchildren do not have to pay for or be complicit in or participate in war, violence, abuse, etc but all can thrive in a world where all Creation is of equal value, one where all are respected—the differences as well as the sameness, all our basic needs are met—food, shelter, clothing, safety (where we no longer fear or need to militarily or destructively protect ourselves from each other—locked door, locked borders, locked hearts and minds and spirits).

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace We thank you.

## **No Military Intervention in Libya: March 1, 2011 Statement from the Canadian Peace Alliance**

The Government of Canada has announced that it will send HMCS Charlottetown to Libya to join the US aircraft carrier fleet led by the USS enterprise. This is part of a much larger NATO led buildup in the area. The Canadian Peace Alliance is opposed to any military intervention in Libya or in the region as a whole.

If the western governments were genuine in their desire to help the people of Libya – or Egypt or Tunisia for that matter – they would not have supported the dictators and their regimes. That support for the dictators is a chief reason why the situation is so violent for the people rising up. Western military deployment to Libya is a bit like asking the arsonist to put out their own fire. Far from being a shining light in a humanitarian crisis, western intervention is designed to maintain the status quo and will, in fact make matters worse for the people there.

Western intervention only serves to install compliant and corrupt dictatorial regimes. The people of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya have done more to bring peace and democracy to their countries than years of US-led military occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The west needs to learn the lessons from those failed invasions and not compound the crisis in Libya.

US and Canadian interests lay in keeping North Africa a compliant bulwark in their plans for control over the entire region. Canadian and US corporations have been quietly making billions while supporting the Qaddafi regime. For example, Calgary based Suncor energy pumps more than \$5 million each day from Libyan oilfields and SNC-Lavalin has been working on everything from construction of a new airport in Benghazi to building prisons for the Libyan government. All told, SNC -Lavalin has \$1 billion in contracts for construction in North Africa.

The best way to help the people of Libya is to show our solidarity with their struggle. Please see: <http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/ArabSolidarity.html> for more information.



## **Jet Fighters a Costly Mistake for Taxpayers:**

Sent December 20, 2010  
By: Tamara Lorincz and Steven Staples

Representatives from the Department of National Defence have recently crossed the country to promote the controversial purchase of stealth fighter jets.

Unfortunately, the DND representatives have not given a full and frank assessment of the F-35 stealth fighter program, the largest military equipment procurement in Canadian history.

Most significantly, they failed to disclose the serious risks, particularly financial, to the Canadian taxpayers.

In July, Defence Minister Peter MacKay announced the government's plan to buy 65 F-35s for an anticipated \$9 billion, through a sole-source, non-competitive contract.

The F-35 stealth fighter is marketed as a fifth-generation fighter-bomber by its maker, U.S. weapons giant Lockheed Martin.

Despite the fact that MacKay has announced the fighter purchase, the government has not signed a contract with Lockheed Martin spelling out exactly how much each plane is going to cost Canadian taxpayers.

Though Lockheed Martin might have given an estimate on the price, a final contract won't be signed for another two or three years. Even worse, the cost to the Canadian government for the support and maintenance of the high-tech stealth fighters is not known and would be negotiated at a later date.

This program has troubled auditor general Sheila Fraser, who warned of the high risk of cost overruns and delays for the F-35 stealth fighters based on her audit of the Cyclone and sole-sourced Chinook helicopter purchases.

Earlier this year, the United States Government Accounting Office also found escalating costs and continuing technical problems with the F-35s in its congressional report entitled *Joint Strike Fighter: Additional Costs and Delays Risk Not Meeting Warfighter Requirements on Time*.

And in testimony before the standing committee on national defence in October, Alan Williams, a former DND deputy minister and author of the book *Reinventing Defence Procurement*, condemned the sole-sourcing of the stealth fighters and urged a competitive bidding process.

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"An open, fair, and transparent process is critical," Williams said. "Undertaking sole-source deals leaves the procurement process more vulnerable to fraud, bribery and behind-the-scenes deal-making and leaves the federal government more susceptible to such charges.

"There's a moral obligation on the part of the leaders of this country to treat our citizens with a lot more respect and provide us really truthful, rigorous, detailed and appropriate answers, not be glibly trying to defend things that are frankly, from my view, indefensible," he said.

It should trouble Canadians that Pierre Lagueur, who as assistant deputy minister of defence in 1997 was behind the original memorandum of understanding for Canada to join eight other countries in the development of the F-35s, is now a lobbyist for Lockheed Martin.

As well, the prime minister's chief of staff, Nigel Wright, sat on the board of Hawker Beechcraft, a supplier to Lockheed Martin, before he became Harper's right-hand man.

In a televised interview, Williams said it is the corporate lobbyists who do not want an open, fair and transparent procurement process.

However, Canadian taxpayers deserve such a public, competitive process that gives a comprehensive analysis and an honest accounting of the stealth fighter program, especially when the federal government is running record annual deficits and adding to the national debt.

Canadians should also question if investing in next-generation fighter jets is a priority over investing in our next generation -- our children, education, the environment and health care.

Do we want the federal government to spend \$16 billion of our tax dollars on stealth fighters?

Moreover, Canadian citizens should be consulted on the future role for the air force and on the direction of the military, something that was denied to the public by the Canada First Defence Strategy of 2008.

Other countries, such as Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and the U.K. have postponed or reduced their commitment to purchase the F-35s because of citizens' concerns and the uncertainty over life-cycle costs.

Winslow Wheeler, an American national security expert at the Center for Defense Information, has claimed, "The F-35's bloat - in cost, leaden weight and mindless complexity - guarantees failure."

We agree and call on the federal government to permanently ground any plans to buy the stealth fighters.

*Tamara Lorincz is with the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and Steven Staples is president of the Rideau Institute, an independent research and advocacy group.*



## **Bill C-474—GE Crops February 12, 2011**

By: Dave Cursons, Cawston, B.C.

Thanks to our BC Southern Interior MP, Alex Atamanenko, and for the first time in Canada's 15-year history with genetically engineered (GE) crops, Parliament did engage in a real debate over the issue.

Atamanenko's Bill C-474 would have required "an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted before the sale of any new genetically engineered seed is permitted."

On Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 C-474 failed in a 178 to 98 vote in Canada's House of Commons.

Disappointing for sure as a very tough time is upon us and it is all for the sake of corporate profit and big money's moves to own and control the world's food supply.

Again, we see that Canadians cannot be confident that Parliamentary Government will be at once both democratic and responsible. Ottawa proves again and again that we really have only 'the best government that money can buy'.

Our government is a shill for corporations driven solely by the appetite of their shareholders for greater quarterly profit. Over and over again these corporations purchase slack from Canada's Conservative and Liberal parties.

Canada's National Farmers Union noted that instead of being at the C-474 vote in Ottawa, most Agriculture Committee members are actually in Guelph listening to the President of Monsanto Canada.

Monsanto is the leading proponent of genetically modified seed. Monsanto had lobbied to prevent the Commons debate from even occurring.

Genetically Engineered food has won significant global market share through the 'buy in' of massive scale industrial agriculture and laxness of governments. Although very profitable to Monsanto and a few others, GE interference fails in the goal of increasing crop yield.

GE's promise of better crop yield was to save the world from starvation but The Union of Concerned Scientists says that in a nearly 20 year record, genetically engineered crops have not increased US yields substantially.

Genetically Engineered agriculture allows for our reckless abuse of air, water and soil resources and tries to surmount our bad practices through costly technological tinkering. Such Genetic Engineering methods and products are patented for profit.

A better and Greener future in agriculture will be found in continued diversity.

Diversity in agriculture means multitudes of local small-scale farms cultivating many varieties of seed. This is a healthy and sustainable agriculture that works with nature's nutrient and water cycles and not against them.

Thanks again to MP Alex Atamanenko for very good try. This is a very tough row to hoe.



## Bring Home Canadian Troops Now!

By: The Canadian Peace Alliance

The war in Afghanistan has reached new levels of brutality. Civilian casualties spiked in 2010 and the rate of killing is increasing each month. It's time for it to end. After almost ten years of occupation and almost a half a trillion dollars spent by NATO, Afghanistan still suffers from a lack of basic services and a corrupt NATO backed government

The *Canadian Peace Alliance* and the *Collectif Echec a la Guerre* are calling for a pan-Canadian day of action on April 9, 2011 to call for an end to the war and to bring Canadian troops home now. This day of action will coincide with anti-war demonstrations in the US in both New York and San Francisco.

The statistics are shocking. According to the *Afghan Rights Monitor*: "Almost everything related to the war surged in 2010: the combined numbers of Afghan and foreign forces surpassed 350,000; security incidents mounted to over 100 per week; more fighters from all warring side were killed; and the number of civilian people killed, wounded and displaced hit record levels."

The NATO forces continue with air strikes that kill civilians such as during the 4 days of attacks on Ghazi Abad, which started on February 16 and killed more than 60 civilians - 30 of which were children. In a single two-week period between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 200 civilians were killed.

The Canadian deployment of another 1000 soldiers to act as trainers will only compound the problems faced by the Afghan people. Any support for the corrupt regime of Hamid Karzai works against the aspirations of the Afghan people to live in a free and democratic society. The Harper government admitted that they were propping up a corrupt regime while at the NATO summit in Lisbon. They even announced that they would refuse to send aid to the Afghan president until they had assurances that the money would be spent properly. One wonders what strange twist of logic has Canada refusing to send aid for fear of corruption while they are willing to send Canadian soldiers to help expand the control of that same corrupt government throughout the country.

Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa have provided an example of people struggling to create a new society without western intervention and against regimes supported by the west. The people of Tunisia, Egypt

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## Bring Home Canadian Troops

and Libya have done more to bring peace and democracy to their countries than years of US-led military occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Self-determination for the Afghan people is the only solution to the current crisis. In the words of former Afghan MP, Malalai Joya - "No nation can donate liberation to another nation. These values must be fought for and won by the people themselves. They can only grow and flourish when they are planted by the people in their own soil and watered by their own blood and tears."

The majority of Canadians want our troops brought home now. Join us on April 9 and demand that the Harper government listen to the Canadian people and end this war.

For more information on the war in Afghanistan and how you can help bring the troops home now contact the Canadian Peace Alliance at: [www.acp-cpa.ca](http://www.acp-cpa.ca)  
[cpa@web.ca](mailto:cpa@web.ca)

Without a doubt, military spending represents the single most significant perversion of worldwide priorities known today.

Former President of Costa Rica,  
Oscar Arias, 1999

Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war.

Albert Einstein



The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles, which are the sole responsibility of the authors and may not be common consensus. To contribute please contact **Laura** at **250-442-0434** or **l4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Uranium Free Kootenay Boundary, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as other local and global groups.

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