

Vol. 11: No. 101: March 1, 2012

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#### 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 Thursday @ 7 pm. in Selkirk College**

#### To Do

This issue will have an extra two page so as to include interesting events in our region.

From time to time we may add a page or two so as to bring our readers important information that will not fit into the normal 4-page spread. To date we have provided this newsletter free of charge and will continue to do so, but remember we do pay for printing so donations to the BPI will be welcome at any time. If you wish to contribute a few dollars, please contact Laura at 250-442-0434 or by Email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net) or even better bring it to our regular meeting (time and venue above)

#### Avaaz, Syria & BPI Response Feb. 9, 2012

*Ed note: Avaaz is an on-line petition site. Its campaigns for the most part are ones the BPI can support and signed onto. This time we are concerned because the organization is taking sides in a very violent conflict. In our view all violence is abhorrent and unacceptable therefore, urge all to resolve issues non-violently, respectfully and honorably.*

#### Avaaz (excerpts):

The Assad regime is slaughtering its citizens and tearing cities apart. The UN has failed to stop the killing, and Avaaz has the only network that is both smuggling medical equipment and journalists in and images and information out.

Thanks to the generous support of members across the world, Avaaz is providing a rare lifeline of critical support to the democracy movement in Syria. When activists told us medicines were running out, we set up a smuggling network to deliver over \$1.8 million worth of medical equipment into the country, saving thousands of lives. When the Syrian National Council was struggling to present a credible leadership alternative to the world, we organized meetings in the UN, Russia and across Europe to support their work.

#### BPI Response:

I regret our Avaaz action in this campaign and fear it will affect the global regard this organization has won for work in so many other areas. Support for political dissent, for citizens calling for governmental reform, for their peaceful resistance to abuse, all this is to be commended. But, in almost all nations, smuggling is regarded as a crime and providing material support to revolution is held as either treason or espionage activity.

We realize, where factions engage in violent conflict, that innocent non-participants are often coerced, exploited and either hurt or killed by the combatants. Again, it is a great travesty of human dignity when combatants are so fierce in their opposition that they do not, or cannot, allow continued function of medical care or other social

(Continued next column)

#### Avaaz, Syria & BPI Response

services needed by the unengaged citizenry, or connect the receipt of care to logistical support or to information about the 'enemy'.

It is this loss of civil society that moves us to non-violence or to plan dissent or armed rebellion in the most careful manner. Those of us who care to die for our beliefs have no right to assume the same for others or to adopt a "for us or against us" attitude. In Canada too, we continue the cry for democracy and for freedom from tyranny; each time our government expends our wealth in foreign invasions, hundreds of our people die at home, many times in as violent or as cruel of ways as in civil war.

It is a dire choice that people are faced with, to flee combat areas, to escape the demands of conflictors, to not have their love of family, fellows and homes exploited, to not be used as shields or as media examples of how barbarian the 'other side' is. The proper action of the state, of NGOs, local or foreign, or of revolutionaries with any legitimacy, is to arrange and allow citizen flight to places of refuge where national, Red Cross (or Avaaz) care can be given without danger to the providers. Avaaz might also encourage the cooperation of Syria, the Syrian National Council and other sectarian or humanitarian groups in arranging places of refuge, and in assuring respect for their neutrality

Organizations such as Avaaz are in the same position as other innocents that find themselves in the midst of armed conflict... we need to choose. If we provide partisan support we become an advocate of the violence. If we take refuge in peace, we will avoid being used, maintain an impartial reputation and be, thereby, better able to assist all those who are threatened or displaced by the violence of others, or those dissenting under tyranny. I respectfully beg you to consider this position in regard to all our campaigns.

*On behalf of the Boundary Peace Initiative  
Martin O'Brien*

## **BPI Says Thank You & Undertakes a Review**

The BPI wishes to thank all for your valuable input and overall support since October 2002. This support helps us continue our work locally, nationally and internationally. There are no words to adequately express our gratitude for all the countless hours and energy so freely given—time, labour, ideas, food, participation, the opportunity of other community groups to share information and educate ourselves—except to say THANK YOU. I will not attempt to list (for concern that I will miss someone) the individuals, businesses, organizations, elected officials who continue to contribute to our mutual goal of a world where violence, abuse and corruption are the anomaly not the norm, where we all can and will live in harmony, peace and justice.

The generosity throughout the No Boundaries Film Club festival was phenomenal. We are grateful to the Film Club for the opportunity; the attendees for their financial donations, to all who donated food and hands to help us provide sustenance over the 3 days, to all who shared information and signed petitions. Remember, that together, untied, in harmony, we can make the changes necessary for a world where love for and of our global family is so powerful that even the contemplation of harming one another is unthinkable, unacceptable.

We also have a request of our supporters and interested people. Over the last few months we decided to revisit our mission statement so as to make it more relevant and reflect more fully our current work and this led to the realization that there is a need to complete the documentation that was overlooked, because of the urgency under which we came together —Value or Belief statement, Constitution and Bylaws, Purpose and Objectives. BPI believes these documents can be a valuable tool as a reference for our activities or the use of our resources, as well as for public or individual assessments of our effectiveness, relevance and ensure that when the core group is no longer able to continue others can easily take over the reins and continue the work. This project will be ongoing, for a few months at least, so we can incorporate the viewpoints, skills and research of interested peace-initiators until each document expresses the values, goals and approaches of a our wider community and be adopted by consensus.

Therefore we are seeking input from all who care to participate and offer an opportunity for your voice to part of the collective. We welcome all suggestions so please come and contribute at our regular meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 pm in Selkirk College or contact Laura by phone at 250-442-0434 or email at [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).

Thank you, our dear brothers and sisters. Let's join our hands, hearts, minds and energy to live today as we wish the world to be. On behalf of the BPI,  
Laura Savinkoff  
Chair

## **Protest Netanyahu in Canada Don't Attack Iran**

On March 2nd, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be in Ottawa. He and Stephen Harper are expected to discuss a potential attack on Iran.

The Canadian anti-war movement has an important job to do. Harper has called Iran the greatest threat to world peace and has been a vocal supporter of Israeli policy. He is also using his platform to spread lies about Iran's nuclear program. We need to respond, as we did with Iraq, by building the biggest possible movement to stop Canada from heading down the path to war.

The Canadian Peace Alliance is calling on all members, groups and supporters to join events across Canada this weekend to say: NO to the war with Iran!

Read the Canadian Peace Alliance statement on line at: Don't Attack Iran! --

<http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/index.html>

Kelowna  
Peace Rally  
Saturday, March 3  
12:00 noon  
The Sails, Kerry Park

In response to war-mongering rhetoric aimed at Iran, as well as to the visit to Canada by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on Friday and to numerous calls for military intervention in Syria, the Kelowna Peace Group is calling for a peace rally. The Kelowna Peace Group calls for nuclear weapons free Middle East and the elimination of all existing nuclear arms. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty calls for the same thing. However the Kelowna Peace Group believes that until the people forge peace movements strong enough to force their governments to live up to this treaty it will remain empty rhetoric

Organized by the Kelowna Peace Group  
Contact: [peacegroup@shaw.ca](mailto:peacegroup@shaw.ca)

Ed. Note: The BPI, due to our involvement with the Film Festival, was not able to organize a rally/event this time and thanks the Kelowna group and participants who were able to travel from the Kootenay/Boundary, for representing the B.C. Southern Interior.

## CPA Convention: October 14-16, 2011

### Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>:

9 am arrived quickly and we began by addressing internal CPA business. I was the note-taker as we decided upon a policy to build consensus to pass Resolutions submitted by member groups and reports by the Co-chairs and Treasurer.

Christine (Chris) Jones (co-chair) chaired this first session. It was established that we had the necessary Quorum of 15 member groups in order to proceed to presentation, discussion and voting on CPA business and resolutions. She outlined the process of consensus as per the CPA bylaws. It was agreed unanimously that unless someone spoke against a proposed resolution that it would pass. If a need for discussion arose, then we'd entertain two speakers in favour and 2 opposed. Amendments brought forward would need the approval of the submitting group presenting the resolution or the group could pull the resolution. This was accepted and approved.

Jessica Squires explained that the Resolutions Committee reviewed the submissions. Due to the Federal election the convention had been postponed and therefore one resolution in particular is recommended to be withdrawn. **Resolution 2011—13** is redundant since the Federal election is over and another is 4 years away. This motion was passed by consensus. (All resolutions are available on the CPA web site and will be published in the BPI newsletter).

Chris asked for all delegates to introduce themselves and state which groups they represented. Chris then presented a quick overview of the work embarked upon based on the last convention (2008) campaigns as well as developments which fall within the mandate and constitution of the CPA. She encouraged groups to continue local actions as well as participate in national calls that periodically arise from the SC and/or other member groups. Due to the challenge of limited time and funds it is amazing the amount of work, actions and activities that have been accomplished. Even though protesting is being increasingly criminalized we have organized, endorsed and sponsored actions, which our member groups participate in as much as possible. Our collective effectiveness grows through linking with people that have mutual concerns and issues and this in turn encourages new member groups and speaks to the CPA mandate of inclusiveness. On the Steering Committee we have had some changes since 2008. When Bob Ages found he was unable to continue as our Treasurer Kim Kerridge graciously stepped forward. We acknowledge and are very grateful to Bob for his valuable contributions to the CPA and thank Kim for taking on the position to date. Chris honored one of our SC members, Peter Leibovitch as well as all peace activists that have died since our last convention. Some highlights of the last 2 ½ years have been: working with other member groups on the court challenge of George Galloway and organizing his cross-Canada tour; Malialia Joya's book (co-authored by Derrick O'Keefe) and speaking tour; endorsing, promoting and helping to organize the Canadian Boat to Gaza; as well as other campaigns and days of action. We have been busy and involved and thank all our member groups for their involvement and support.

(Continued next column)

## CPA Convention: October 14-16, 2011

Derrick added that there would be caucus meetings to chose representation to the SC and then the SC will elect its executive to be brought to plenary. He hopes that we will also establish new committees, such as media, outreach, fundraising, translators/interpreters and others that may contribute to our work from within the SC and also draw on expertise from among our member groups, to lighten the load on our coordinator. The CPA was to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> year at the 2010 convention but due to circumstances that delayed the convention, we are using this opportunity to mark a 1/4-century of work and growth. We have established links internationally with groups such as Peace Action USA, UNAC, and others around the world and through this we gain information and coordinate activities and support others and ourselves.

Kim, as Treasurer, presented a brief financial report. She explained that the finances have been audited as required by CRA and the information is available to all member groups. She highlighted the dedication of our coordinator, Sid Lacombe, because he provided many hours of work that we are unable to pay him for and stated the fact that over the last two years there have been times when we were unable to pay him on time. She called on member groups to do all they can to ensure their membership dues come in on time as well as encouraged all to fund raise on behalf of the CPA and/or donate generously as individuals or groups. There was no discussion or questions. The officers' reports were accepted as presented by consensus.

The following resolutions were brought forward and voted on:

Motion to Direct Steering Committee to Develop Proposals to Clarify Duties of Officers and Directors: Passed by consensus.

2011—15 On the CPA's organization. Passed by consensus.

2011—20 Motion to create a Past Co-Chair Position. Passed by consensus.

We then all raced to the scheduled workshops we had chosen to attend.

(More next issue)

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

### **Resolutions to the CPA Convention 2011**

#### **2011-12. An action plan for the CPA end Canadian and NATO occupation of Afghanistan**

The Canadian Peace Alliance will renew the practice of facilitating an annual cross-Canada day of action to oppose the illegal and unjust U.S.-led occupation of as the most important political activity every year until such time as all NATO forces including Canada end the occupation;

The Canadian Peace Alliance will announce the date of the annual day of action two months in advance.

Because: It will keep the pressure on the Harper government to end the occupation, such protests are needed to renew and strengthen the peace movement and are a good forum for connecting the occupation to other peace-related issues such as military spending, the occupation is becoming more bloody, and such protests stiffen the resolve of all parliamentary parties opposed to the occupation and make the issue more prominent in the minds of all Canadians.

*Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

#### **2011-14. Broaden support for the right of war resisters to stay in Canada, build anti-militarism among youth, defend the rights of people engaged in anti-imperialist solidarity**

The Canadian Peace Alliance will

1. Support the initiatives of war resisters groups to end the deportation of foreign war resisters, including Afghanistan and Iraq,
2. Work among youth, including cadets and soldiers, to resist committing war crimes and to reject militarism and war,
3. Defend the rights of students, academics and all activists engaged in anti-imperialist solidarity, such as with the Palestinian people.

*Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

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, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as other local and global groups.

### **Resolutions to the CPA Convention 2011**

#### **2011-09. Combined Resolution on the Question of Libya**

The Canadian Peace Alliance strongly condemns the armed interference by NATO in the internal civil conflict in Libya, particularly the so-called “humanitarian” imperialist occupation and calls upon the anti-war movement in Canada to uphold a foreign policy for Canada based on diplomacy as opposed to the use of violence to settle conflicts within and between nations.

*Submitted by NOWAR-PAIX/Canadian Peace Congress*

### **Book & Film Recommendations:**

#### **Damned Nations: Greed, Armies and Aid**

By: Samantha Nutt, M.D. Founder of War Child  
Dr. Nutt teaches at the University of Toronto and is also on staff as a Doctor at Women’s College Hospital.

The BPI requested the Grand Forks Public Library to bring in this book and we strongly recommend it as a very informative and interesting read. Dr. Nutt gives an insiders view to all that is involved with providing aid during crisis, whether created by human interference in the political systems of other nations, by internal wars or extreme weather conditions.

K’Naan says: When I first met Sam, I was moved by her total and single-minded dedication to justice. She thought of people in far away places the way we think of relatives in disadvantage, and she behaved like we do at our best, when we care enough to do something, I have no doubt you will be moved by her stories and her work, but I hope most of all, by her example.

*Ed note: K’Naan is a songwriter/ singer/activist loved and respected by youth and many of us older folk.*

Exercise your democratic rights:

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister  
Free postage: Prime Minister, Steven Harper, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
Phone: 613-992-4211 Fax: 613-941-6900  
Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

## Green Talk

Free Movie on 120" TV and a discussion.

You are warmly invited to free events called Green Talk when together we explore different environmental issues and ideas, watch amazing documentaries, listen to speakers, network, create friendships and---have a good time together!

Children all ages welcome!

Where: Christina Lake, The Village (at the lounge)

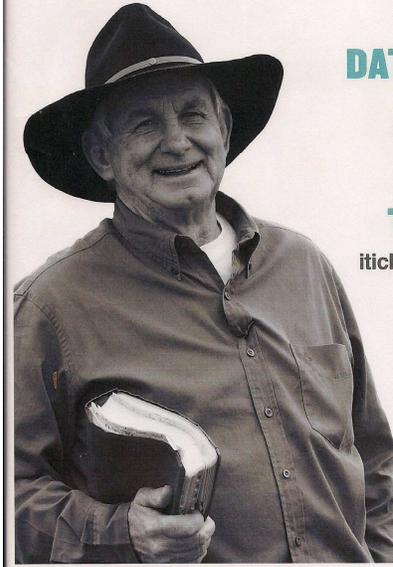
19 West Lake Drive, B.C. at Hwy 3, behind the Mural.

When: every Thursday from 7-9 pm

# THE GATHERING

With Speaker Angus Buchan

Whose life is depicted in the film "Faith Like Potatoes"



## DATES & LOCATION

June 29 - July 1, 2012  
Prestige Inn Convention  
Centre, Nelson BC

## TICKETS & INFO

[itickets.com/events/277434](http://itickets.com/events/277434)  
1.800.965.9324  
[jzaks@telus.net](mailto:jzaks@telus.net)



*Film is available at the Video Store*

One was small, but in its smallness it had its rights. The other was great, but in greatness it had no greater rights than the rights of the small, because the right of the small is for everyone.

Lois Riel--1885

There is a tendency for living things to join up, establish linkages, live inside each other, return to earlier arrangements, get along, whenever possible. This is a way of the world.

Lewis Thomas

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

Albert Einstein

# Hanford: North America's Fukushima Located On The Beautiful Columbia River

Occupy Portland Speaks Out on an Environmental Tragedy

Inform  
Others

**April 15, 2012**

The Sunday Before Earth Day

Educate  
Yourself

Occupy Portland raises the question:  
Is enough being done to clean up the most contaminated site in America?

"Hanford is a prime example of the unmet promises across America to permanently relocate and secure nuclear waste,"

Congressman John Shimkus (R), Chair Environment/Economy Subcommittee after a visit to Hanford

"We are not in the construction and engineering business. We are in the business of making money."

-Steve Bechtel Sr., Bechtel former company president

**Come Speak Out For Change  
Rally With Us!**

**Noon @ John Dam Plaza, Richland Washington**

**DEMAND EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE  
HANFORD CLEAN UP FROM THE U.S. D.O.E. AND CONTRACTORS.  
Honor The Tri-Party Agreement**

**Speakers:**

Dr. Helen Caldicott / Nuclear Free World  
John Brave Hawk / AIM-Warriors Society  
Mays Thompson / Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Paige Knight / Hanford Watch  
Lloyd Marbet / Oregon Conservancy Foundation  
Chuck Johnson / Columbia Riverkeeper  
Peter Bergel / Oregon PeaceWorks  
Linda Seeley / Mothers For Peace  
Bonnie Urfer / Nukewatch

**Performers:**

MIC Crenshaw  
Miriams Well  
More TBA

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For info on bus transportation from Colville call 971-258-1627

## French study finds childhood leukemia doubled around nuclear plants

January 12, 2012

From: <http://www.beyondnuclear.org/home/2012/1/12/french-study-finds-childhood-leukemia-doubled-around-nuclear.html>

A major epidemiological study just published in the January 2012 edition of *The International Journal of Cancer* indicates there is "a possible excess risk" of acute leukemia among children living in close vicinity to French nuclear power plants (NPP). The study called for an "investigation for potential risk factors related to the vicinity of NPP, and collaborative analysis of multisite studies conducted in various countries."

The study found a doubling of occurrence of childhood leukemia between the years of 2002-2007 among children under 5 years living within 5 km of nuclear plants – similar to the findings of the [German 2008 study](#) by the Cancer Registry in Mainz which found an association between the nearness of residence to nuclear power plants and the risk of childhood leukemia.

The epidemiological study was conducted by a team from the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN) and the National Register of hematological diseases of children in Villejuif. The results marked a surprising and encouraging change at IRSN which had endeavored to discredit earlier French epidemiological studies that had shown an impact of nuclear facilities on health. (Continued next column)

## (From last column) French study

### . Abstract

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ijc.27425/abstract>

To study the risk of childhood acute leukemia (AL) around French nuclear power plants (NPPs).

The nationwide Geocap case-control study included the 2,753 cases diagnosed in mainland France over 2002-2007 and 30,000 contemporaneous population controls. The last addresses were geocoded and located around the 19 NPPs. The study used distance to NPPs and a dose-based geographic zoning (DBGZ), based on the estimated dose to bone marrow related to NPP gaseous discharges.

An odds ratio (OR) of 1.9 [1.0-3.3], based on 14 cases, was evidenced for children living within 5 km of NPPs, compared to those living 20 km or further away, and a very similar association was observed in the concomitant incidence study (standardized incidence ratio (SIR) = 1.9 [1.0-3.2]). These results were similar for all the 5-year age groups. They persisted after stratification for several contextual characteristics of the municipalities of residence. Conversely, using the DBGZ resulted in OR and SIR close to one in all of the dose categories. There was no increase in AL incidence over 1990-2001 and over the entire 1990-2007 period. The results suggest a possible excess risk of AL in the close vicinity of French NPPs in 2002-2007. The absence of any association with the DBGZ may indicate that the association is not explained by NPP gaseous discharges. Overall, the findings call for investigation for potential risk factors related to the vicinity of NPP, and collaborative analysis of multisite studies conducted in various countries.