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

To Do

April 19th 7 pm @ Mir Center for Peace, Castlegar, B.C. Conscience Canada film Work for Peace, Stop Paying for War. MP Alex Atamanenko speaks on war tax resistance. Admission is by donation.

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition **Conference--April 28th** 9:30 am--4:30 pm @ Mir Center for Peace, Castlegar. Guest Derrick O'Keefe, co-chair of Stop War & CPA. **Registration (\$15** each) required by April 21^{st:} Contact Laura at L4peace@telus.net or 250 442 0434.

Time is Right for the Human Right to Peace By: Anwarul K. Chowdhury

No time is more appropriate than now to build the culture of peace. No social responsibility is greater nor task more significant than that of securing peace on our planet on a sustainable foundation. Today's world with its complexities and challenges is becoming increasingly more interdependent and interconnected. The sheer magnitude of these requires all of us to work together. Recognition of the human right to peace by the international community, particularly the United Nations, will surely generate the inspiration in creating the much-needed culture of peace in each one of us.

NEW YORK (IDN) - Nearly thirteen years ago in 1998, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, a group of civil society organizations launched a global campaign for the recognition by all of the human right to peace. They declared, "We are convinced that after this century with its horrible wars, barbarism and crimes against humanity and human rights, it is high time for the 'Human Right to Peace' ".

They elaborated by underscoring that "the right to live is not applied in times of war - this contradiction and the undermining of the universality of human rights must be ended by the recognition of the human right to peace". They called upon all "to prevent violence, intolerance and injustice in our countries and societies in order to overcome the cult of war and to build a Culture of Peace".

Both objectives still remain elusive, unattained human right to peace has not yet been fully, formally and directly recognized as well as efforts needed for advancing the culture of peace remain sidelined in the UN system.

The international community over the years has been endeavoring to establish the universality of peace and human rights. The United Nations, in its Charter, recognized peace as central to its existence and affirmed that it is both a prerequisite and a consequence of the full enjoyment of human rights by all.

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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.

(From last column) Right to Peace

The collective dimension of the human right to peace was codified in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, as the responsibility to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war lies with the peoples.

The collective right of peoples to peace and security was also proclaimed by Article 23.1 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981. Also, in 1984, the UN General Assembly proclaimed that "the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace"; and declared that "the preservation of the right of peoples to peace and the promotion of its implementation constitute a fundamental obligation of each State".

With regards to peace, the 1999 Conference of The Hague Appeal for Peace is worthy of mention, because it approved an ambitious political document entitled "Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century". The Agenda comprised four main appeals on disarmament and human security; prevention, resolution and transformation of violent conflicts; international humanitarian and human rights law and institutions; and the root causes of war/the culture of peace.

Since then civil society has assumed that peace, justice, development, disarmament and the respect for human rights are essential elements to build the culture of peace to challenge our current culture of violence.

Pioneering steps in this context were taken with the Istanbul Declaration, adopted in 1969 by the XXI International Red Cross Conference, which states that human beings have the right to enjoy lasting peace as well as with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights resolution in 1976, which affirms that everyone has the right to live in conditions of peace and international security.

Luarca Declaration

I am very proud to say that the civil society organizations have been the most forward-looking advocating for the recognition of human right to peace. The leadership role in this campaign

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has been played by the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL). They adopted a landmark document in October 2006 titled the "Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace" that articulates a very forceful and comprehensive expose of the subject and hopes that it would be considered by the United Nations General Assembly "in the near future." Five years have passed in between.

A very valuable aspect of the Luarca Declaration is that it crafts all the various "elements of human right to peace" bringing together, in an effective manner, the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of human rights and the overriding need to achieve international social justice. It also affirmed very boldly and rightly that the effectiveness of the right to peace will not be achieved without the realization of equal rights for men and women.

The recognition of "enabling" human rights, such as peace and development, is required to achieve a coordinated response on a worldwide scale to those threats to human rights arising from the global interdependence of all peoples and nations. Indeed, the prevailing condition of extreme poverty, hunger and disease in the world mean not only a clear violation of fundamental human rights, but also a real threat to millions of human beings.

The Luarca Declaration was further elaborated in the Bilbao Declaration that was subsequently reviewed by the International Drafting Committee - ten experts from five regions of the world meeting in Barcelona which adopted on 2 June 2010 the Barcelona Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, thus providing international acknowledgment to the private codification process initiated in Luarca in 2006. I had the honor and pleasure of being the Chairman of that International Committee. The Barcelona Declaration got endorsed by the broad-based International Congress held in Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Since 2007 the Human Rights Council is reaffirming the fundamental value of solidarity in global relations. The Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations in 2000 affirmed that "global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes costs and burdens fairly, in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice, and that those who suffer, or who benefit least, deserve help from those who benefit most".

In the international community, there was also increasing recognition of what is being called ad the third generation of human rights closely linked to the fundamental value of solidarity - first generation being political and civil rights and the second being the economic, social and cultural rights. Nearly 1800 civil society organizations joined together to form in Geneva an alliance in support of the recognition of the human right to peace by the Council and ultimately by the UN General assembly.

Human right to peace

Addressing the arguments raised by the detractors of the proposal in relation to the allegedly vague content of the human right to peace, Canadian peace exponent Douglas Roche underscores that the human right to peace "is the product of a paradigm shift at the international level. Rights that focus solely on the relationship between the State and the individual are not sufficient in responding to a globalized world in which problems are no longer defined purely in national terms. The same global circuitry that fuels transportation, information, finance and organization has also increased the power of the arms trader, the warlord, the religious fanatic, the deranged political leader, the human trafficker and the terrorist. (Continued next column)

(From last column) Right to Peace

There is, thus, a technological burden with which the other two generations of human rights were never designed to cope, and the human right to peace is an attempt to respond to the perils of the modern interconnected world. Dismissing the human right to peace as vague and declaring that it offers nothing new is an exercise that misses the mark.

The human right to peace is innovative and addresses a whole swathe of new and interconnected global challenges".

Although international law and politics acknowledge the prevailing interrelationship between human rights and peace, the recognition of the right to peace as an autonomous human right has not yet been achieved by the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, I and like me many believe that the right to peace should be qualified as a right of solidarity.

The international solidarity requires international cooperation, union of interest and joint action in order to preserve not only the fabric and very survival of international society, but also to achieve the collective goals. All means used to achieve this global purpose are shared by the right to peace, because the "cooperation for the maintenance of international peace and security is an absolute necessity for the implementation of this right". Once the right to peace is established as a new human right, it would provide a solid basis to the culture of peace. Its recognition would also give fresh impetus to the struggle against violence and attitudes based on force, imposition and gender discrimination.

Culture of peace

Recalling Einstein's comment that "Peace cannot be kept by force ... it can only be achieved by understanding", my dear friend and colleague Federico Mayor, who has been a visionary leader of UNESCO, said, "we must understand today that if peace is the right of all people, then a culture of peace is the responsibility of all people". So profound and so appropriate!!

Promotion of peace needs to be understood not only in the passive sense of the absence of war, but also in the positive sense of creation of conditions of equity, gender and racial equality and social justice. Indeed, depriving people of their economic, social and cultural rights generates social injustice, marginalization and unrestrained exploitation. It follows that there exists a correlation between socio-economic inequalities and violence.

Thus, the realization of the right to development is vital to reduce any kind of internal or external violence within society. It is therefore necessary to reincorporate into the international agenda the issue of the right to peace, which had disappeared since the end of the Cold War. The United Nations should re-engage in the real sense in favour of solidarity, human rights, international cooperation, disarmament and peace as a whole.

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As we step into the second decade of the 21st century, we could surely take lessons from our past in order to build a new and better tomorrow. One lesson learned is that to prevent history repeating itself - the values of non-violence, tolerance and democracy will have to be inculcated in every woman and man children and adults alike. As former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel Peace laureate Kofi Annan has said, "Over the years we have come to realize that it is not enough to send peacekeeping forces to separate warring parties. It is not enough to engage in peace-building efforts after societies have been ravaged by conflict. It is not enough to conduct preventive diplomacy. All of this is essential work, but we want enduring results. We need, in short, a culture of peace."

With that objective, a landmark decision was taken by the United Nations to adopt the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace in 1999. I had the honor of chairing the nine-month long negotiations for reaching consensus on this norm-setting document.

Peace is a prerequisite for human development. And peace cannot be achieved unless the mind is at peace. Peace is meaningful only when we have peace within and peace outside.

We should never forget the profound words incorporated in the UNESCO Constitution that "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." The flourishing of culture of peace will generate the mindset that is a prerequisite for the transition from force to reason, from conflict and violence to dialogue and peace.

No time is more appropriate than now to build the culture of peace. No social responsibility is greater nor task more significant than that of securing peace on our planet on a sustainable foundation. Today's world with its complexities and challenges is becoming increasingly more interdependent and interconnected. The sheer magnitude of these requires all of us to work together. Global efforts towards peace and reconciliation can only succeed with a collective approach built on trust, dialogue and collaboration. For that, we have to build a grand alliance for the culture of peace amongst all, particularly with the proactive involvement and participation of the communities.

In today's world, more so, the culture of peace should be seen as the essence of a new humanity, a new global civilization based on inner oneness and outer diversity.

Seed of peace exists in all of us. It must be nurtured, cared for and promoted by us all to flourish. Peace cannot be imposed from outside; it must be realized from within.

A key ingredient in building the culture of peace is education. Peace education needs to be accepted in all parts of the world, in all societies and countries as an essential element in creating culture of peace. The young of today deserves a radically different education - "one that does not glorify war but educates for peace, non-violence and global cooperation." They need the skills and knowledge to create and nurture peace for their individual selves as well as for the world they belong to.

All educational institutions need to offer opportunities that prepare the students to be responsible and productive citizens of the world and should introduce the teaching that builds the culture of peace.

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(From last column) **Right to Peace**

We should not also be oblivious that non-violence can truly flourish when the world is free of poverty, hunger, discrimination, exclusion, intolerance and hatred - and when women and men can realize their highest potential and live a secure and fulfilling life.

Here let me underline a point very strongly that much of the dynamic progress towards culture of peace derives inspiration and hope from visions and actions of women who constitute half of the world population. Promotion of equality between women and men and equal participation of women in all decision-making are essential prerequisites to attaining sustainable peace.

As has been said, "For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls." I believe with all my conviction that when women are marginalized and their equality is not established in all spheres of human activity, neither the human right to peace is worthwhile, nor the culture of peace is possible.

*Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury is former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations and at present, the Senior Special Advisor to the President of the UN General Assembly. This Viewpoint is adapted from the speech Ambassador Chowdhury made on 25 September 2011 at the Platform Meeting at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. [IDN-InDepthNews -January 19, 2012

to to be ashamed

Oct. 15 2011 Toronto Occupy Bay Street

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Resolutions to the CPA Convention 2011 2011-15. On the CPA's organization

The Canadian Peace Alliance office will either provide a copy of the CPA constitution or post the constitution on the website within three months of this convention.

The Canadian Peace Alliance treasurer will provide audited financial statements to delegates at the next convention, if they are not yet presented to delegates at this convention. *Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

2011-19. Ongoing situation in Sri Lanka

Whereas the UN Secretary General appointed three member Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka produced a report indicating war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed during the final stages of the war; and Whereas the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka found credible allegations of indiscriminate killing of civilians, extra judicial killings of political prisoners, and the systematic bombings of hospitals were committed by the Sri Lankan Government and Armed Forces during the final stages of the war; and Whereas the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka concludes that although both sides committed violations, the Sri Lankan Armed Forces committed the majority of war crimes and crimes against humanity; and

Whereas the United Kingdom based Channel 4 News broadcast a groundbreaking documentary entitled "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields" which features devastating new video evidence of war crimes during Sri Lanka's civil war; and Whereas certain footage from the documentary has been authenticated by the UN and has been declared as evidence of definitive war crimes by the UN Special Rapporteur on extra judicial killings; and

Whereas while the war has been over for more than two years there continues to be a lack of accountability and fundamental rights in Sri Lanka, as noted by various NGOs, which includes abductions and disappearances, media restrictions, the militarization in the North-East, forced detention and slow progress in resettlement of IDPs, a pervasiveness of unaccountable rapes and murders in the North-East, and the continuation of oppressive and exclusionary policies based on ethnicity; and

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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 **14peace@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

Whereas despite compelling evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Sri Lankan government outright dismisses the analysis of the UN Special Rapporteur and the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lankan Government further remains unwilling to engage in a proper accountability process; and

Whereas the Canadian Peace Alliance has stood in solidarity and consistently supported the Tamil community's call for justice, fairness, and human rights while being a strong voice for peace on the global stage.

Be It Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance shall endorse the international call to immediately establish an independent, international, and impartial mechanism to ensure truth, accountability and justice in Sri Lanka; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance encourages its members to pressure the Federal Government to unequivocally call for an international war crimes inquiry to establish accountability and true reconciliation.

Be It Further Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance encourages its member organizations to stand in solidarity with the Tamil nation in their global struggle for self-determination and freedom. **Submitted by NCCT**

Be It Resolved That the Canadian Peace Alliance endorse the Pongu Tamil Rally for Self-Determination on Saturday, October 29, 2011 supporting the unified Tamil calls for selfdetermination and freedom. **Submitted by NCCT**

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

Violence can only be concealed by a lie, and the lie can only be maintained by violence. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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

Book & Film Recommendations: Roots of Empathy Changing the World Child by Child

By: Mary Gordon

Educator and international speaker; 1981 founded 1st Canadian network of Parenting and Family Literacy Centers; 1996 founded Roots of Empathy non-profit organization; Awards: Ashoka Fellowship; Fraser Mustard; Distinguished Canadian Educator

We need to live by what we have come to know.

It is not enough to know that the sustained and loving engagement of parents is the single most influential factor on the healthy growth of the human child and if that knowledge is not acted on-if we continue to leave parents, especially the most vulnerable of them, to struggle alone without the supports and resources they need to give their child a healthy start in life. We have to stop the rhetoric and do the things that will put children first. We need to honour parents and recognize the interdependence between family-friendly societies, competent parenting and healthy, confident children. It is not enough to know that the age-old resorting to armed aggression, bombing or starving our perceived opponent into submission resolves nothing and only breeds further conflict as the effects spill over from nation to nation. We have to recognize that ultimately we are dependent on one another, that when one nation loses we will all lose, and that what we particularly lose is another piece of our humanity, our progress towards civilization. We are borrowing the future from our children, and we have to ensure that what we do today does not diminish but instead enriches the world we will leave to them-and their children.

Available at the Grand Forks Public Library

CPA Convention: October 14-16, 2011 Saturday:

The first workshop began my work as facilitator and was entitled **'Canada's War in Libya".** As presenter, Sid Lacombe gave a background of the UN motion based on 'the responsibility to protect' doctrine that provided the excuse for NATO's intervention, which changed from creating a 'no-fly zone' to regime change rather quickly. Although the Arab League did come on board not all were in agreement but as NATO attacks, led by Canada, intensified, many Arab nations changed their position. The rise of the 'Arab Spring', as it has been dubbed, is a threat to the west as much as to the rulers of the Arab and African nations. This intervention in Libya is resource based (oil, gas, minerals, etc) and not necessarily to protect or help the people establish better governing bodies.

A very engaging discussion followed as all 22 participants added their insights and voiced concern. A major disappointment of many was the NDP support for the NATO led war on Libya. All agreed that the 'no-fly zone' was a myth used to invade and it is a concern that the UN and Canada will use this as an excuse for further interventions and attacks.

Some suggestions arose from the discussion on what and how the CPA as well as individuals and local groups (Continued next column)

(From last column) **CPA Convention:**

can address the issue of not only Libya and the Middle East but also the 'responsibility to protect'. This doctrine has been used by the empire builders of the past but it has become much more bloody and widespread. All agreed that it is necessary to lobby the NDP, especially now as the leadership contest begins. Part of our responsibility is to share information among the wider public. It is becoming harder and harder to assess Canada's role if you only access mass media since it is very biased and much information is blocked, making it more difficult to trust this information as a true reflection of the situation on the ground. Therefore, we must learn from past experience and be highly critical of conventional media reports by confirming information through alternative means. We must also question the UN Security Council decisions given the make up of the body and the ability of one nation to veto the whole process. By educating ourselves and connecting the dots—follow the resources and the money—we can help others change their positions once they have more comprehensive information. And then the time was up, an hour went very quickly and we all were off to the next session.

War, Famine and Resistance in Africa was the next workshop I was to facilitate.

About 14 people came to hear our two presenters: Faduma Mohamed and Farid Omar. Both have their roots in Somalia and work with the Somalia Diaspora to raise funds and the means to alleviate the on going suffering of the people not just this latest famine.

Farid is associated with the Group for Research and Initiative for the Liberation of Africa Farid explained that Somalia, as well as many other countries in Africa, have untapped gas, oil and uranium deposits. The US and China are battling for control of these resources by employing the African Union as a front. One method is the use of Proxy Wars to incite dissent and armed conflict that destabilizes the regions and makes it easier to gain control. The US is mainly behind the militarization of the continent-- the break up of Sudan is an example. In order to set up military bases the US set up AfricaCom. That is why the hostilities in Libya erupted—the US needs the oil as well as easier military access to the rest of the continent. In Africa many of the governing bodies, are puppet regimes glove in hand with the US. The current level of genocide, famine, mass displacement, escalation of conflict and the refugee crisis (over 250,000 Somali refugees today) are the product of US empire building, where just in Somalia 1 million people have died since 1993. The solution in Farid's assessment is to end the US and its allies Proxy Wars and for the West to stay out of Africa. Also, the people are quite capable of deciding how they wish to settle their disputes through dialogue, in other words--self-determination that works for the region based on culture and diversity of religion. politics, etc.

Faduma, a well-spoken, determined woman, informed us that Somali people are very capable of helping themselves when they have the resources to do so. Drought is not a new phenomenon but in the past we managed to relieve our suffering by supporting each other and working with our own governments (Continued page 6)

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Through a power point presentation we witnessed the devastating causes and effects of starvation; these stories and facts not provided by the Western/mass media. Along with Proxy Wars the constant dumping of radioactive and chemical waste as well as deforestation and stripping of the land by foreign corporations aided by puppet regimes has intensified and in some cases created the situation. Twenty years ago, as well as in the 1970s, we had drought and famine but we had a functioning Government that used airplane drops and other means to distribute aid, food and medical supplies directly to the people. I question why this is not happening today. I also wonder why food is brought to the refugee camps only every two weeks. In these camps there is no opportunity for schooling, very limited food, water and medical services. The people languish in misery locked behind a fence and are not permitted to leave in search of food, water or medical help. These large NGOs will not work with local groups or the people directly preferring to distribute aid themselves or funnel it through the west-friendly governments and corrupt officials. Yes, some local groups, such as Al Shabab do not allow the large NGOs into their territory because they have learnt not to trust these agencies. The people know that only 20% of the aid ever gets to those who need it, while the executives and Government get 80%. UNHCR had a budget of millions of dollars, so why are the people still starving in unhealthy conditions? While the UN, US, EU and AU battle over what each wants to do without consulting the people while the people continue to die. There is also no plan to either resettle or integrate the refugees. We have, through small aid agencies and the African Diaspora, such as HIRAAN, raised and distributed funds and distributed them all to local contacts, usually women elders in the villages, who either buy or identify what's needed and by whom. Through this method we by-pass the sitting Government and are assured that all the aid is getting to the people. Turkey. By sea and by air, provides food and medical attention free of charge where it is most needed with no strings attached. We need to challenge the Canadian Government and CETA policy as to why they are limiting aid and how it is delivered. This aid must not only go to Somalia but also to the rest of Africa. If aid agencies are properly regulated and held accountable we would not be in such dire straights and if the West stopped exploiting and stripping us of our resources, people, minerals, forests, water, etc for profit or geo-political advantage, Africa would not be in constant conflict and starving.

Through discussion some suggestions came forward. There is a need to establish independent networks with local people not the ruling elite in order to truly assess and understand what is going on and not depend on Western mass media for information. We, those of us who are truly concerned need to work with the African people and offer any help we can as they establish and institute self-determined, self-guided systems of government. These systems may be very different from the Western models but what works in the west will not necessarily work for other cultures. There are many established groups in Africa, especially youth groups, which we can work with that need international support. African people are traditionally nomadic but retain strong family and community bonds breeding an independent spirit, which holds them together and gives them strength to overcome adversity, natural as well as the empire builders and exploiters. With the help of compassionate people the African Diaspora does all we can to inform, educate, and aid our people towards self-determination. (Continued next column)

(From last column) CPA Convention

It was difficult to end this extremely vital session but it was time for a lunch. I suggest that those who wish to learn more about the situation as well as ways to help, go to the website GRILA—website: www.grila.org.

Lunch was provided on-site for a donation. We needed to eat quickly so we could join the Occupy Bay Street actions in St. James Park.

A banner prepared just a few days prior read—Occupy Bay Street Not Afghanistan. A young man and myself volunteered to carry the banner as we wound our way, led by the City Police, through the streets of Toronto to the park. Some slogans chanted were: 'Occupy Bay Street Not Afghanistan', 'Peace and Prosperity Not War and Austerity', 'War Resisters Welcome Here', 'What do we want? Peace. When do we want it? Now'. As we neared the park we could hear a cacophony of voices raised in chants, song and conversation. We joined the gathering and continued to voice our slogans. I requested the bullhorn to pass on the support of those gathering in Grand Forks and the B.C. Southern Interior. It was well received and acknowledged that this is a peoples' movement where all are accepted and welcomed since the main issue is the oppression by the elite minority over the majority. I did take an opportunity to walk around a bit and take a few pictures of the signs displayed and the people involved. I noticed was that there were people from all walks of life, all economic levels, all age groups—babies to elders, the disabled, the homeless, the extremely poor to those in business suits. At one end was a collection of media where speeches were happening and at another end were performances by singers and musicians and in other areas were smaller groups of youth and families talking, singing, drumming and many, many others circulating just like me, taking in the overall aura of solidarity and concern for our world, not just Canada but Mother Earth. Sadly, those of us involved with the Convention had to get back to the University and begin our afternoon session. Although our participation was vitally important since the main thrust of the CPA and I would wager most Peace and Social Justice groups, is the struggle to alleviate the suffering of our global family under the voke of power and control by the 'elite', the 1% who feel they are entitled to oppress, suppress and exploit the rest of us, our timeline for the convention agenda was tightened and some planned workshops had been dropped. So off we went, in smaller groups back to Ryerson knowing those of us who had traveled short and long distances did join the beginning of the Canadian Occupy Movement.

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