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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.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeace.20m.com

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

To Do

There are no scheduled events for June at this time but watch for notices if Days of Action are called.



O peace! How many wars were waged in thy name.

Alexander Pope

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Meets April 28, 2012

By: Sandra Hartline: June 4, 2012

Dear Editor,

At its recent biennial conference in Castlegar at the Mir Centre for Peace, the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition reviewed a range of threats to the peace and security of our world with a general focus on enhancing the positive and creative energy of humanity.

Delegates unanimously endorsed: 1) Bill C-363 (for conscientious objectors to redirect/divert that portion of their taxes going to the Department of National Defence to peaceful purposes); 2) Bill C-373 (calling for the establishment of a federal Department of Peace), 3) the Occupy Nelson Movement, and 4) the stand of university students in Quebec against proposed increases in their tuition.

Bill C-363 and Bill C-373 are both Private Members Bills put forward by Alex Atamanenko, Member of Parliament for the Southern Interior of British Columbia, and have received first reading in the House of Commons.

The B.C. Coalition represents a diverse membership of organizations throughout the Southern Interior region of the province and is a member of the Canadian Peace Alliance. Its guiding principles are based in equality, social and economic justice, protection of the environment, and respectful communication to achieve peaceful solutions rather than resorting to violent methods. It is an avenue for lives that honour, value and support all humanity and Mother Earth by sharing and learning from each other's experiences.

The B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition meets twice a year, usually in the spring and fall. For further information please contact coordinator Laura Savinkoff at 4peace@telus.net

Sincerely,
Sandra Hartline

Endorsement of Occupy Nelson

To whom it may concern,

The B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition endorses the actions of Occupy Nelson. The reasons for this endorsement are that Occupy Nelson demonstrates concern and acts on the issue of peace and social justice. In the time they have been organizing, Occupy Nelson has consistently raised awareness of local issues such as homelessness and affordable housing as well as of broader world issues such as corruption in the banking system and food security.

The horizontal democratic system that the Occupy movement has adopted as their form of organization demonstrates a model of peace not only in its outside actions but within the groups, thus making it easier for personal relations and constructive solution oriented dialogue among members and the public. Occupy Nelson's interest in the realm of restorative justice, oppression, and inequality in the workplace also helps build community and therefore Peace and Social Justice.

Occupy Nelson not only supports their own projects but also supports community projects that shine light on peace and social justice by attending meetings and events within the Nelson area. This builds strength in the occupy movement and the peace movement.

Ratified during the April 28, 2012 Conference of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition in Castlegar, British Columbia,

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
On behalf of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition,

Laura Savinkoff

Declaration of Support for the Students of Québec

To Whom It May Concern:

The B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition supports the legitimate struggle of the students of Québec against an increase in tuition fees, in order to keep post-secondary education accessible to all. Substantial student debt is a burden that young people should not have to carry.

Educated citizens are better equipped to participate fully in a society in which social justice, peace, respect and solidarity can become guiding values.

We are inspired by the students' courage and determination.

We therefore, ask Premier Jean Charest to cancel the tuition fees hike and find other means to finance post-secondary education.

Ratified during the April 28, 2012 Conference of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition in Castlegar, British Columbia.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
On behalf of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition,

Laura Savinkoff

Endorsement of Private Members Bills C-363 & C-373

To Whom It May Concern:

The B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition endorses the two Private Members Bills put forward to the 41st Parliament of Canada, 2012, by B.C. Southern Interior MP, Alex Atamanenko.

Bill C-363 allows Conscientious Objectors to divert the portion of their taxes from the Department/Ministry of National Defence to peaceful purposes. Bill C-373 calls for the establishment of a federal Department/Ministry of Peace.

These bills advance the mandate of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition, to establish social justice, economic equality, environmental integrity and mutual respect for all humanity and our planet through non-violent dialogue and actions.

Ratified at the April 28, 2012 Conference of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition in Castlegar, British Columbia,

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
On behalf of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition,

Laura Savinkoff

Ed Note: All 3 endorsements have been sent to the appropriate MPs & MLAs.



Global Day of Action on Military Spending

By: Hannah Hadikin; April 17, 2012

On April 17th thousands of people around the world, observe the annual Global Day of Action on Military Spending. According to figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military spending has reached the colossal figure of \$1.6 trillion or translated to a shocking \$4 billion per day! Despite the urgency to address global poverty, hunger, child mortality, malnutrition and disease, sales of weapons and military services by the world's biggest arms companies continues to rise, exceeding \$400 billion annually. While these life destroying expenditures increase year after year, investment in peace building, conflict resolution, human development, lag far behind. It is truly a disgrace that military spending eclipses all global priorities including the UN Millennium Development Goals: Eradicating hunger and poverty, achieving universal primary education and promoting equality and empowerment of women, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and global development, which were the military budget re-allocated, would be sufficient to meet the MDG five times over.

Canada's build-up in military spending began at an alarming rate in 1999. The primary driving force behind the increases is the participation in the U.S. led "War on Terror". Joining the military operation in Afghanistan for example, has cost Canadians approximately \$8 billion according to the Department of National Defence's annual report. Interestingly, Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page's 2008 report put actual incremental costs for the Afghanistan mission between \$14-16 billion. Canada's defence is more than what the federal government spends on education, health, justice, human rights, environment, fisheries, oceans and international aid, **combined**. And to dispense with the illusion that the government directs significant amounts for UN peacekeeping operations, the contribution is a paltry ranking 59th out of 114 countries. Canada is the 13th largest military spender in the world. It services many countries including weapon sales to Saudi Arabia, which totaled \$4 billion last year. Is anyone questioning Canada's foreign policy supporting a
(Continued on page 3)

(From page 2) **on Military Spending**

regime where equality is a dirty word? With the withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq and proposed withdrawal from Afghanistan, arms manufacturing, like vultures, are getting into frenzy, anticipating a drop in sales and profit. It is no coincidence that the drumbeat of war is echoing an invasion of Iran as it did in a suspiciously similar propaganda process prior to the US invasion and occupation of Iraq.

The gap between the rich (1%) and the rest (99%) is widening at an alarming rate. During the 2006-2008-food crisis, precipitated by the multi-nationals with their neo-liberal policies of deregulation and privatization, prices for staple food rose dramatically, resulting in food riots in many developing countries. More people were pushed into hunger, malnutrition and undernourishment than ever before. In 2010 prices spiked once again and by all accounts will remain volatile in many countries for decades to come. It is time to dispense with the false belief that military spending enhances security. Security must focus on meeting human needs as poverty eradication, housing, health care, education, food security and the protection of the environment. It is truly time to evolve beyond conflict, war and violence and to focus on peace building between nations, people and societies, establishing structures of cooperation, tolerance and respect for human rights and social justice.

Civil disobedience is, traditionally, the breaking of a civil law to obey a higher law, sometimes with the hope of changing the unjust civil law. ...But we should speak of such actions as divine obedience, rather than civil disobedience. The term 'disobedience' is not appropriate because any law that does not protect and enhance human life is no real law."

Sister Anne Montgomery, R.S.C.J.

Mahatma Gandhi (nearly) said, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they spy on you, then you win".

A state of war only serves as an excuse for domestic tyranny.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

EQUALITY

By: Shantelle Bron

I've seen it.

The potential, the power we have to move and change the world. To mould it into something more than the misshapen, chaotic mess it's become. Yet we sit around and complain about how no one is making a change while we wallow in the beds of prejudice and ignorance that we've made. We live in a place where the kind of man you are is often based on what you see reflected in a piece of glass. Even now, when racism has been somewhat diminished we continue to base our opinions of people on hasty glances and shallow first impressions.

I am tired. I'm tired of the racism, sexism and homophobia that we face each day. I've grown weary of the bullying people face due to things they are unable to change. It is stunning to me how simple-minded and naïve a majority of the human race is. I am shocked on a daily basis by people ridiculing disabilities and differences. I refuse to stand by while we mock people for the unique qualities that make us human. It has never been, and will never be right to dismiss such behavior, for doing nothing while others suffer is equally as barbaric as taunting them ourselves.

I think the problem is that people forget to see. Not forget to look. We all look without seeing. People simply cannot seem to grasp that we are not our colour. We are not our age, our height, our religion or the birthplace of our ancestors. Nor are we our financial state, sexual orientation, gender or what we see in the mirror before us. Ultimately, we are human, and the only thing we have in common is that we are all vastly different.

Ed note: Shantelle kindly agreed to share this with our readers. We suggest that if you wish to reproduce this piece, verbal or in print, please include the author and the source.



CPA Convention: Oct. 14-16 2012

Saturday Oct. 14th:

It was now time for more CPA internal business—discussion and voting on resolutions. Following are notes as taken by Colleen Ashworth from Halifax.

29 delegates were present for the 3rd plenary on Saturday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Resolutions 9 and 10 were merged (Libya). Be it resolved: added - "condemns the armed interference by NATO".

Passed as amended.

Resolution 6: First "Be it resolved" removed. (Moved by Ali, seconded by Kim) Added in 'Be it further resolved': "and conflict resolution programs" after "Peace Studies".

Passed as amended.

Resolution 11: Passed without discussion.

Resolution 19: (Tamil). Add: "Be it further resolved: that the CPA endorse the Tamil rally on Saturday October 29 supporting the Tamil call for self-determination." Passed as amended.

Resolution 21: Amendment in 2nd 'Be it further resolved: 'similar attacks on Muslims *and any others whose* civil rights etc..... Passed as amended.

Resolution 8: Ken Stone spoke to changes in this resolution concerning Iran - it was tabled for further discussion on Sunday.

Resolution 4: tabled until tomorrow.

Conclusion of plenary.

Over dinner, served on site, a film was presented entitled "Poison Dust" provided by the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. Judith Berlyn, SC rep from Montreal, and myself facilitated the short discussion. Many were unaware of how devastating the effect of weapons and other materials that incorporate Depleted Uranium are. The name of this highly toxic radioactive material, a by-product of uranium processing, is deceiving for the radiation emitted has a half-life of 4 billion years. The fine dust produced from exploding DU invades the air, land and water, settles onto clothing and makes its way into the food chain lodging in bodies of all organisms, creating all manner of cancers, autoimmune disease, birth defects, diabetes and other chronic ailments. Although the 'powers that be' refuse to acknowledge the extensive and destructive affects many Doctors and Scientists attest to the devastating destruction of the gene pool.

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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 **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.

Book & Film Recommendations:

Films donated in 20112 by the No Boundaries Film Club to the Grand Forks Public Library.

HAPPY: Director: Roko Belic

Happy combines cutting-edge science from the new field of "positive psychology" with real-life stories of people from around the world whose lives illustrate these findings. We see the story of a beautiful woman named Melissa Moody, a mother of three who had a "perfect life" until the day she was run over by a truck. Disabled for nine years and disfigured for life, amazingly she is happier now than before her accident. Manoj Singh, a rickshaw puller from the slums of Kolkata, India who lives in a hut made of plastic bags with his family, is found to be as happy as the average American. Through these and other stories, *Happy* leads us toward a deeper understanding of how we can all live more fulfilling, healthy and happy lives.

Numerous Awards include: Audience Choice, Telluride Mountainside Festival; Grand Jury Award, Amsterdam Film Festival; Best Documentary, Mexico Int'l Film Festival

Kinshasa Symphony: Filmmakers: Claus

Wischmann and Martin Baer

Kinshasa is the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the third-largest city in Africa. Almost ten million people live here and they number among the poorest inhabitants on this planet. Kinshasa is also the home of Central Africa's only symphony orchestra. Two hundred orchestral musicians are playing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. A power cut occurs just before the last movement. Problems like this are the least of the worries facing the orchestra. In the 15 years of its existence, the musicians have survived two putsches, various crises and a war. But concentration on the music and hopes for a better future keeps them going. *Kinshasa Symphony* is a study of people in one of the world's most chaotic cities doing their best to maintain one of the most complex systems of joint human endeavor, a symphony orchestra. The film is about the Congo, the people in Kinshasa and the power of music. *Numerous Awards including: Most Popular Nonfiction Film Award, 2010 Vancouver Int'l Film Festival; Best Cinematography, Rhode Island Int'l Film Festival 2010*

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CPA Convention: Oct. 14-16 2012

Saturday Oct. 14th:

The affects can be detected not only in the direct path of DU but the extremely fine dust spreads its tentacles throughout the world as it attaches itself to the wind currents. In 1991 DU was detected in England within a few months of its use in Iraq and then 6 months later in California. The film was used as a means to give some background to Sunday's workshop on the nuclear industry.

It was now time to relax and visit. Chris and Derrick, as co-chairs, spoke briefly on the accomplishments of the CPA over the last 25 years and encouraged all of us to continue to work locally, nationally and internationally to expand our networks and build the movement towards a world of peace and justice. The campaign launched a few short weeks ago by the CPA, Peace and Prosperity Not War and Austerity—reflects the CPA's direction and motivations. At this time I brought greetings from the B.C. Southern Interior member groups (the BPI, Kairos Nelson, KRUNA, Okanagan Peace Group, USCC Working Groups) as well as the Anglican churches of the Boundary, the Anglican Bishop of the Southern Interior Dioceses, Grand Forks Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and then read messages from the City of Grand Forks and our MP Alex Atamanenko.

It was also noted that a long-standing rep to the SC, Judith Berlyn was wearing a T-shirt produced by the CPA back in the late 1980s.

Dear Friends,

I would very much have liked to be at this meeting to take part in the discussion on creating peace in our troubled world. In the face of a Conservative majority government that is ramping up the militarization of our country, the proposed purchase of F-35 bombers being but one example, these discussions are critically important.

It is at meetings such as this that we need to stand up for issues such as a nuclear free world, a balanced Middle East policy and an increased effort to promote peaceful solutions to conflict.

Soon, I will be re-introducing a Private Members Bill, originally brought forward by recently retired Bill Siksay, to create a Department of Peace within the federal government. Another Bill I am working on would re-direct the taxes paid by conscientious objectors towards peace initiatives. I have received some very thoughtful input for several amendments to these bills from my friends in the peace movement for which I am very grateful.

I will continue to reach out to other local champions of a more peaceful world.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) CPA Convention: Oct. 14-16 2012

Don't give up – Together we WILL make a difference!

Alex Atamanenko, MP

On official letterhead below is the message from the City of Grand Forks.

October 11th, 2011

Canadian Peace Alliance

Dear members:

The City of Grand Forks sends its heartfelt support and encouragement for a successful and inspiring convention. We also congratulate the Canadian Peace Alliance on its 25th year of active involvement in bringing Peace and Justice through non-violent action in Canada and around the world.

We thank the member groups for their dedication past, present and future. We also look forward to continuing to work with the local group, the Boundary Peace Initiative, a member group of the CPA, on issues of concern and help strengthen our community and improve life for all our citizens and our global neighbors.

Best Regards,

Brian Taylor MAYOR

I stayed for a few hours and trundled my way home. As I disembarked from the subway and walked towards my destination, I got turned around in the dark and could not figure out how to get back onto the proper street. I knew I was not far from where I needed to be but could not identify the landmarks to get back on track. Fortunately I met up with a family taking a stroll and appealed for help. The young woman sent her husband and young son on their way home and walked with me to the right street, fortunately I was only a couple of block off and she lived in the neighborhood, it wasn't difficult to get me to where I was going. I have consistently found the people of Toronto very helpful and happy to be of assistance whether on the subway, the bus, taxi drivers, or on the street. My host family was not home so I took this time to edit my presentation for tomorrow's workshop on building/re-building the peace movement. After about an hour it was off to bed to rise early in order to get to Ryerson by 9 am.

(Continued on page 6)



(From page 5)) **CPA Convention: Oct. 14-16 2012**

Sunday, Oct. 16

The bitter wind penetrated my clothes as I stood waiting for the bus since the sub-way doesn't begin to run until 9 am. But, the bus seemed to be late and the numbers waiting kept increasing, so decided to flay down a taxi in order to be at the University in time to take notes for the Plenary on internal CPA business. Below are these notes.

Jessica Squires, an SC member, chaired. We had Quorum. Jessica explained this is an information session on some of the proposed Resolutions to give people an opportunity to review and make suggestions/amendments and then vote at the next plenary.

Resolution 2011-01 is similar to the one from 2008, which served as a guide to campaigns and actions. The SC recommends that some of the current resolutions be rolled into 2011-01 and after consultation with the contributing member groups we will be proposing amendments. Jessica read out 2011-01 and mentioned those resolutions recommended for inclusion. Some discussion ensued on suggested wording and will be incorporated as friendly amendments. **No vote was taken at this time.**

An emergency resolution and position paper on **Iran**, classified as per the bylaws, was introduced and discussed but no vote was taken to give people a chance to review it. Once concern was raised that due to limited funding and employee time that member groups take on the logistics and some of the campaign work surrounding the proposed speakers list and tour. The changed wording would include that the CPA support but not sponsor this tour. **No vote was taken at this time.**

We then proceeded to discuss and vote on some Resolutions.

Resolution 2011-04 Elimination of the Military, diverting its funding to social programs and human needs. Discussion surrounded the elimination of the military and concern was raised that this was an impossible demand—the Government would never agree to this. Laura Savinkoff as the representative from the sponsoring group replied that this should not bar us from seeking the elimination of the military but stated that she realized there was hesitation and would abide by the majority and not block consensus. A friendly amendment was proposed that we use 'reduce' rather than 'eliminate'. Laura stated that reducing the military was not the intent of the motion and was prepared to withdraw the motion. Consensus was that this was an important issue but required only one small change in wording and the majority did not feel it needed to be withdrawn. Therefore after some discussion, Laura agreed to the amendment. **Passed by consensus.**

(Continued next column)

(From last column)) **CPA Convention: Oct. 14-16 2012**

Resolution 2011-03 UNDRIP: This motion was withdrawn because it will be incorporated in 2011-01.

The list of new SC representatives was presented. {If you wish to check out the list of SC reps please go to the CPA website at; <http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/index.html>}

There was a change of plans. I had originally volunteered to facilitate the workshop entitled 'Indigenous sovereignty and the anti-war movement' but was instead asked to chair '**Alternatives to war: What happens if the troops leave?**'. The room filled up quickly with at least 25-30 participants. I will try summarizing this hour-long discussion that generated many questions and comments after the presenters spoke.

Ali Ibrahim and Suria from Afghans for Peace were the presenters. These two young people are deeply affected by the situation in their home land and are dedicated to stopping the occupation and corruption perpetrated by the West that is so prevalent and destructive. It is good that foreign troops are slowly leaving our country because this will give Afghans the room to decide how they wish to be governed. One of the problems though is that the US continues to fund both the Taliban via Pakistan aid as well as the Karzai Government. What we would like to see is the West, especially the US, stop meddling in our affairs on all levels—political, economic, environmental, and social.

Yes, this is a strategic area both as a resource for the oil and gas pipelines as well as the discovery of billions of dollars of other natural resources that the world covets. Yet, the Afghan people are not consulted nor included in the decisions and plans. The people do realize there is a need to diversify so that the poppy industry and the underground economy is curtailed but we want to make our own choices in our own way according to our own customs and traditions and desires.

One problem that exists is the continued focus on urban center, which exclude the majority of the people in the rural areas. Until all the people feel included there will be problems that lead to violence. If we want a united country then we must develop and provide services to the rural areas as well.

Another outcome of this divisiveness is that corrupt officials, whether Government or Taliban, siphon off any aid monies provided and once again the people are left destitute giving more room for corruption and bribery, protection loyalties, just to eat.

(More next issue)