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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](http://www.boundarypeace.20m.com)**

**Starting July 12<sup>th</sup> Boundary Peace Initiative will meet @ 7 pm on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave.**

**To Do**

**Hiroshima Day Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm in Castlegar on Zuckerborg Island.**

**Nagasaki Day Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm in Gyro Park, Grand Forks.**

Speakers, Entertainers & Silent Auction.  
**Guest Derrick O'Keefe--co-chair of Van. Stop War and co-chair of CPA: author and journalist.**  
**Watch for more details in Aug. issue and posters.**

For info Laura @ 250 442 0434 or [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net)

**No Western Intervention In Syria**

June 26, 2012

By: Canadian Peace Alliance

As the violence escalates in Syria, there are further calls from Western media and government officials for a foreign intervention into the conflict. The Canadian Peace Alliance stands against any intervention from outside powers and is calling on the government of Canada to refuse participation in any "Friends of Syria" coalition to achieve regime change in Syria.

Military interventions have an appalling track record throughout the world. Usually justified as "humanitarian interventions" under the doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect", and supposedly undertaken as a means of stopping civilian casualties, military intrusions actually result in even more civilian deaths and the destruction of infrastructure crucial to supporting life. This was clearly the case in the NATO bombing of the former Yugoslavia and in the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq. The most recent example is Libya, where an UN-sponsored "No Fly Zone" morphed into a month-long NATO bombing campaign to remove the government of Muammar Ghaddafi. The result has been the creation of a failed state run by separate militias with their own agendas. Far from stopping a civil war, the NATO intervention in Libya has resulted in a fractured and even more dangerous situation for most civilians.

There is already a concern that other regional and global players, intent on their own geopolitical aims, have infiltrated the Syrian resistance, further muddying the waters and making an already complicated situation even more untenable. Sending more arms and NATO bombs into that mix will not protect the Syrian people but will once again escalate the crisis.

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(From last column) **Intervention In Syria**

Western governments have always had their own interests at heart while engaging in these types of interventions. They look at the uprising as an opportunity to weaken the ties between Syria and its regional allies, primarily Iran. The US, Canada and the UK have all made it abundantly clear that Iran, which operates outside of the Western sphere of influence, is a primary target of attack.

What is even more troubling is that the conflict in Syria has the potential to build into a proxy war with major global powers such as Russia and China on the one side and NATO powers on the other. Any intervention in the dispute has, therefore, the chance of becoming a much larger global conflict.

It is time to stop the warmongering-rhetoric and find a diplomatic solution to the Syrian crisis. Recently, the United Nations Security Council appointed Kofi Annan to begin a peace process, which does not call for regime change. It calls for observers, dialogue between the warring parties, and peace. While western countries supported the Annan peace initiative in the Security Council on the one hand, they have been, on the other hand, hypocritically arming and funding (with the help of Turkey, Jordan, and the Gulf monarchs) the rebels who seek the overthrow of the Assad government. Moreover, Western governments are the loudest complainers when the Syrian government responds to armed aggression with force, as any other government would do in its place. As the Syrian foreign minister was famously quoted, speaking to western powers recently, saying, "You can't be an arsonist and a firefighter at the same time."

The Canadian Peace Alliance calls on the Canadian government to be the first to downscale the tensions that have escalated over the Syrian downing of the Turkish fighter jet. This can be done in several ways:

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(From page 1) **Intervention In Syria**

- 1) **stop calling for regime change in Syria and work toward the success of the Annan peace process in Syria;**
- 2) **urge restraint at the upcoming emergency meeting of the NATO Council, called by Turkey;**
- 3) **recall the HMCS Charlottetown and other warships from the Middle East, where the presence of these gunboats are likely to drag Canada into war.**

### **What can you do?**

Send an e-mail to your MP.

Just cut and paste the statement and send to your Member of Parliament

A full list of MP's e-mail addresses here:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

Download the petition

"NO NATO INTERVENTION IN SYRIA" here.

<http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/SyriaPetition.pdf>

Sign the online petition here. <http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/SyriaPetition.pdf>



### **Peter MacKay Low-Balled Libya Costs, Government Report Reveals**

By: Rideau Institute: May 11, 2012

(Ottawa) Defence Minister Peter MacKay dramatically underestimated the cost of last year's Libya intervention, incremental cost figures released with the DND 2012-13 Report on Plans and Priorities show.

In June 2011 Minister MacKay told Canadians that the incremental cost of the Libya mission from March 2011 to the end of September would be approximately \$60 million. The mission was eventually extended for one additional month, ending officially on October 31, 2011.

The figures in the government's Report on Plans and Priorities, published this week, show that the actual incremental cost of the mission was \$99.8 million, almost \$40 million more than Minister MacKay estimated.

Part of that difference — probably about 15% — can be explained by the one-month mission extension. But even when Minister MacKay's estimate is increased accordingly, to about \$70 million, it still falls \$30 million short of the mission's actual cost.

"The Rideau Institute warned in June 2011 that the mission costs would likely be much higher than Defence Minister Peter MacKay had estimated, suggesting that the actual incremental costs were more likely to be in the \$80 to \$85 million range," said Bill Robinson, a defence researcher and senior advisor to the Rideau Institute. "In the end, even that estimate was too low."

But when also adjusted to account for the one-month mission extension, to about \$92-98 million, the Rideau Institute estimate turns out to have been much closer to the final figure than MacKay's estimate was.

"As in the F-35 stealth fighter fiasco, it seems that Defence Minister MacKay was low-balling the true costs of the Libya operation at the time," said Steven Staples, President of the Rideau Institute.

Minister MacKay discussed the Rideau Institute estimate in an exchange with former defence minister John McCallum during a hearing of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates on June 14, 2011:

McCallum: My next question has to do with the cost of the Libya mission. Again, I'm a strong supporter of that mission, but in terms of cost, I think your number was approximately \$60 million for the full six-month period.

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### **Peter MacKay Low-Balled Libya Costs**

-MacKay: That would be, yes, the extension, presuming that the vote-

McCallum: But the Rideau Institute and others have said that the true cost is significantly greater than that. What do you include in the cost? Do you include depreciation on the planes or salaries of military people? And what is the per-unit cost of these smart bombs?

MacKay: They're incremental costs, firstly, so they don't include such things as depreciation or salaries. That is not normally part of what would be considered incremental costs when it comes to the mission. So the Rideau Institute, as so often is the case, is wrong.

"Actually, the estimates provided by the Rideau Institute were explicitly for incremental costs only, so it was Peter MacKay who was wrong on that point, just as it was Peter MacKay who turned out to be wrong about the actual cost of the mission," said Bill Robinson.

The Rideau Institute is an independent research, advocacy and consulting group based in Ottawa.

#### **Cost Estimates for CF International Operations**

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### **Shadows Remind us of the Cost of Nuclear Holocaust!**

By: Laura Savinkoff

**We ask for your support to oppose nuclear proliferation of weapons and electricity. Join us at Gyro Park at 1 pm on Saturday, August 11, 2012 to commemorate the victims and stop Mutually Assured Madness bringing us ever closer to total destruction.**

**200,000** people became ashy shadows within a 300-meter radius of ground zero on **August 6<sup>th</sup>** in Hiroshima and **August 9<sup>th</sup>** in Nagasaki. But the long-term devastation to the environment and the people of these two thriving cities and the surrounding areas was not of concern when the U.S. dropped their weapon of mass destruction in 1945.

At present over 20,000 nuclear warheads 20 times  
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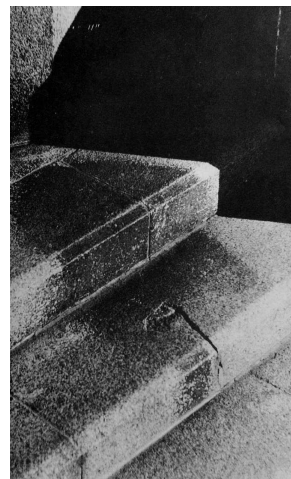
### **(From last column) Shadows Remind us**

more deadly than 62 years ago, with about **2,500** can be launched on 15 minute notice. More countries are developing or wish to develop nuclear weapons. Some Nuclear Weapons States as well as NATO are willing to use them or use conventional weapons on nuclear facilities.

The development of nuclear **energy** is also of great concern. Existing power plant accidents do happen. Chernobyl bears witness of the danger to humans, animals and the environment; children are born with brains outside their heads and grotesquely distorted bodies; water and soil emit radiation, which is passed down through the food chain causing a drastic rise in cancers and other devastating illnesses. And then, following a series of accidents in Japan and elsewhere, an Earthquake and Tsunami devastated Fukushima and this radiation is spreading its tentacles around the globe, into our water and food chain.

Add radioactive waste called '**Depleted Uranium**', which is used to coat missiles, bullets, armor and tanks can be added to that list. The effects of this low-level ionization/radiation are coming to light in Serbia, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine. The rise in cancer and birth defects are the same as Chernobyl, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Soldiers who serve in these areas suffer from what is labeled "Gulf War Syndrome" while Governments deny this is radiation poisoning.

In B.C. **Uranium** mining and exploration is under a Legislated Ban but that can be lifted at any time. As uranium prices rise, so will the threat of further exploration and mining in the Kootenay/Boundary/Okanagan, where we have major deposits. When deposits are disturbed they become radioactive causing untold suffering to all that surrounds the mined, explored or developed area and you can't stop the continual emissions. We become complicit in the production of nuclear weapons, in the threat of nuclear power plant accidents and the total annihilation of our planet by allowing greed to supersede the protection of our planet and us.



## CPA Convention: Oct. 14-16 2012

Sunday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>:

One of the problems is that a NATO imposed Western style Government and life-style will not and cannot work in Afghanistan or other Mid-East countries. Our people need to decide for themselves how they wish to be governed and live without interference and force. The way things stand now a system that has been enforced and is historically foreign can not work because the people have not had a hand in creating it and that which starts with an illegitimate premise continues to deteriorate and cannot work.

There are groups within Afghanistan that Canadian Afghans for Peace and the CPA can and should be working with to bring about the changes Afghans themselves determine. These groups work locally to inform and empower their brothers and sisters while addressing the inherent suspicion of authority, politicians, multi-national corporations offering aid and help. There is good reason to be suspicious given the complicated situation intensified by war and occupation and the destruction of any infrastructure or social cohesion that did at one time exist. Our country has been occupied for so long that two-three generations do not remember a time when foreign troops or businesses did not run our land. The road to long term stability and self-determination will take much effort but there is no reason to presume that the Afghan people do not know or have the capability to form their own system of governance, economy, justice, social programs. Once the occupiers—whether military, economic, political or corporate—leave and stop interfering, our two Afghans were confident that a viable country would emerge. But at the same time we need the world's help to rebuild and re-structure because it was the world that destroyed our land in the first place but that help needs to be according to the needs and decisions of the Afghan people and not engineered and manipulated by those wishing to exploit and use our resources for their own profits.

One man did raise his concerns that many peace groups, including the CPA, have left the streets of Canada and become invisible, insisting that the demonstrations of the 60s and recent past are vital to changing the mindset of Canadians and the Government of Canada. Myself and other CPA members assured this man that the CPA calls for and helps coordinate days of action and campaigns but local groups decide how they will demonstrate and voice their stance We must look at all avenues and all forms of actions and determine what is most effective at any given time in our local areas. The CPA does not dictate or determine if, when and how any member group chooses to endorse, support or organize events as long as that member group remains true to the mandate, mission and vision of the CPA. The hour went very quickly and we ran overtime cutting short our break before the next block of workshops.

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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

### Books available at G.F. Public Library:

**A New Generation Draws the Line: Kosovo, East Timor, and the "Responsibility to Protect" Today,**  
By: **Noam Chomsky**, November 2011, Paradigm Publishers

How do we understand the role and ethics of humanitarian intervention in today's world? This expanded and updated edition is timely, as the West weighs intervention in Libyan civil war. Discussions of Libyan intervention involved the international principle of the right to protect (R2P). Chomsky dissects the meaning and uses of this international instrument in a new chapter. Other chapters from the book help readers understand the West's uses and abuses of humanitarian intervention, which is not always what it seems, including detailed studies of East Timor and Kosovo.

*Noam Chomsky, Professor of Linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the author recently of Hopes and Prospects (2010) and Power and Terror (Paradigm 2011). His articles and books revolutionized the contemporary study of linguistics and his political writings are widely read and translated throughout the world. In 2003 a profile of Chomsky in the New Yorker described his influence as one of the most cited scholars in history. Review and author notes from [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)*

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

{Ed note: I am sorry I do not have a description of the below films but they are worth the effort to view}

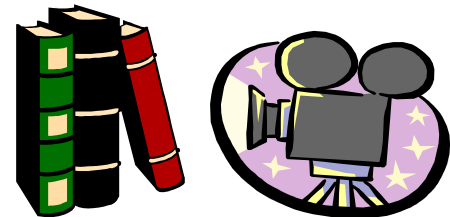
**Stolen Spirits** of Haidi Gwaii

**Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train**

**Tocar Y Luchar** (To play and to fight)

**Shameless: The Art of Disability**

**Favel Rising**



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## CPA Convention: Oct. 14-16 2012

After a short break the next set of Workshops began. This time I was to co-facilitate with Judith Berlyn from Montreal, for the session entitled 'A Nuclear Free World: Canada's Role. Due to the small number of participants we met in the lobby around a coffee table with the advantage of sitting on very comfortable couches. Judith outlined the history of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the role of Abolition 2000 and the Canadian Network Against Nuclear Weapons (CNANW was founded in 1996). To be a member of CNANW you must be a pan-Canadian group and therefore the current Hiroshima/Nagasaki Committee must organize itself into a cross-Canada group in order to become a member. Fortunately CNANW is a CPA member and therefore we do have a working group/committee represented by Judith with me as alternate but it would be good to expand our working group. Two of the participants did volunteer to do so and Judith will follow up with them since they are both based in Eastern Canada.

A discussion on short-term and then long-term goals gave us much to contemplate and work on. Judith explained that in the past church bells rang at 8:15 am local time across Canada to signal the commemoration of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6<sup>th</sup> but of late this practice has ceased and she is not sure why.

One long-term goal towards abolition is to work with the Canadian Parliamentary Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to host and organize an International Conference to Ban Nuclear Weapons and through this conference also address the NATO policy that allows the military coalition to use Nuclear weapons at their discretion. At one time the membership in the Parliamentary Network was 50 and they held events, meetings, brought forward policy and motions but of late that too has lapsed in its activism. Therefore our first task would be to encourage our MPs to become involved and active.

The Mayors 4 Peace is another organization that is growing globally but to date Canadian membership is comparatively low at 93, therefore we need to encourage our cities to get involved. It is also possible to find a champion among Canadian Municipalities to bring forward a motion at the annual gathering of the Canadian Federation of Municipalities.

Through this it will be possible to approach the Federal Government to begin work on establishing Canada as a Nuclear Free Zone and also ensure Canada supports the establishment of a Mid-East Nuclear Free Zone. One way Canada can become involved is by influencing Israel to participate in this initiative, because if Israel continues to resist this move by all other Mid-Eastern countries, the proposal will die before it even gets started.

We also agreed that September 21<sup>st</sup>, International Day of Peace, be used as a vehicle to inform and get the support of Canadians on nuclear issues and the above proposals which will give impetus to our appeals to MPs and Government to stop our participation in exploration, mining, processing and selling of uranium (Canada is in the top 5 providers of uranium) and Canadian support of the nuclear and radiological industry. By connecting the dots of Canadian participation

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

and all its effects on humanity and the environment at home and around the world we will build a broader based network and communication with established groups to organize activities and campaigns to address the issue of the dangers of the nuclear industry.

All agreed that one short-term goal is to revive and then expand the Hiroshima Day Coalition into a national group and through that and other organizations, such as the CPA and CNANW, begin work on our long-term suggestions. We concluded that continuing to circulate petitions and encouraging MPs to put forward Bills and Motions in Parliament as well as approaching our municipalities to do the same was an action that was possible and may be our first step. As with all vital discussions time ran out much too quickly but we all felt we made some good steps towards the future of abolishing the nuclear industry.

It was now time for lunch. We grabbed a quick bite from the food provided and rushed into the panel discussion entitled—Re-building Local Networks. Glenn Michalchuk from Winnipeg, Shauna Morgan from Yellowknife and myself made up the panel. Sadly, I didn't take notes but will try to revive my memory to give a quick snapshot of the discussion.

Glen spoke to reviving the Winnipeg Peace Coalition and expanding their community involvement to include labour and other activists in the area. It was fortunate there was a viable group to build upon and they will continue to work towards a higher community profile on the principle of peaceful non-violent approaches that engender social justice and equality.

Shauna, on the other hand, explained they started from scratch around a kitchen table, which led to forming an active group in Yellowknife with the hopes of expanding membership and involvement. There were, of course, hurdles and challenges but they do have a collection of people concerned about the direction Canada is taking regarding the erosion of civil liberties, human rights and cutbacks to social programs. The continuing increase in military spending at the expense of people gives them impetus to research how they, being so far removed from the larger population bases, could be involved but also effective locally and nationally. This led them to the CPA and application for membership, which was heartily accepted on Friday; making Shauna one of the newest SC reps. {The Yellowknife group joining the CPA now means that all geographical regions of the country are represented. Not all provinces or territories have reps though—Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nunivert have not as yet sent delegates but they are included in the regional breakdown and the reps are encouraged to include these areas in their work}

Below is my written presentation. I know it could have been better written but bear with me since I put my thoughts to paper on the flight to Toronto and a quick edit Saturday night.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views and experiences with you today.

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Re-building can signify a need to fix something that's broken. We are not broken. As someone who has spent a lifetime actively working for peaceful living in harmony with all Creation, I feel, we have collectively made great strides. My people, the Doukhobors, began the journey in the mid-1700s. We were and remain a people committed to toiling, working for Peace through non-violence, social activism for equality, understanding and love of all existence. In 1895, we Destroyed Our Weapons to say to the 'powers that be' that we will not support, contribute, participate or be complicit in any forms of violence, force and fear of which war is one component. For this we were tortured in Russia and thought Canada would be better, but sadly we found out within 2 years that was not so.

Since 1899, my people have stood firm and we have seen many changes among the people of Canada and the world. So, my brothers and sisters, we continue to add onto the house of Peace in concert with our global family. There is place for another room into this house that welcomes, supports, encourages and empowers us, the people of the world, seeking and working for a world free of all forms of violence and abuse, full of harmony and joy, free of destruction and exploitation, full of creative sharing in community. The house is always ready to be added onto and room made for all who seek, act and live for Peace and Justice, equality for the total global family.

Some changes I know of or have personally experienced give me hope and encouragement that the pain Doukhobors and other active seekers for Peace, lived through was not in vain. My people were beaten, jailed and our children put into residential and Industrial schools because they stood firm on their conviction that violence and war are not natural to the human spirit, that all humanity needs to be valued and honored, that all need food and shelter, that all need love, respect and to feel safe in community. We adhere to the understanding that within a family there are no enemies and therefore we have no enemies—we are all brothers and sisters globally, human, animal, insect, bird, or any other form of life large or small.

Over my life I have seen a shift from Peaceniks being on the fringe and labeled weird, dismissed and laughed at to a place where we have people from all walks of life, all cultures, and faith groups among us, evident in this room and among the CPA member groups. We are being taken seriously. No matter how hard the media or Governments malign us the grassroots, the people, our communities know better.

Is there more we can and should be doing? Of course there is! We have come a long way but our task will not end as long as violence, abuse, exploitation, inequality, etc exist. How we choose to approach the issue, the concern, is something we must, I think look at. We must, in my humble opinion, decide as a collective, locally, nationally and internationally, our mode of travel to the destination, the home we are striving to reach. For if we reach the goal of an absence of war but have no process developed to live peace, then conflicts will develop and become wars. I would like to see us chose to travel on our journey speaking, acting, learning, sharing what we are for, what we support, what is right, what creates. Of course, we will continue to oppose the actions and

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policies that are not peaceful but we must use a different language than the military industrial complex the exploiters engage in. We must use words that empower the people, which appeal to the inherent spirit of humanity seeking joy, love and harmony. Even the Bushs and Harpers of the world have this capacity and when we do not separate them from the global family, we may have the opportunity for dialogue and building understanding. It is possible! I know it is. I have seen this between the Doukhobors and the communities we live in. Once we both stopped trying to prove how right we were by attacking the integrity and humanity of the other and truly made an effort to listen and work together, things changed to the point were John J, Verigin, Senior, received the Order to Canada, the Freeman of the City of Grand Forks and numerous other awards, which he accepted not for himself but on behalf of all Doukhobors. He struggled to build and he did. Now it is up to us, we the people to begin to travel along the path of positive action rather than negative, to act rather than react.

As for local networks, well, we, each of us, in this room and those whom we represent, have a personal and collective responsibility to live Peace, love our global family, honor each other, consciously chose to devote ourselves to the equal distribution among all the world's people of not only material and financial resources but also the human potential of using skills, talents and abilities to live in a world where all are fed and clothed, secure from eviction and destruction of our home, where violence and abuse are the exception, not the norm.

How can we express and develop our personal responsibility? This weekend is one way, another is taking every opportunity to speak out, stand up, and act—Peace. We need to share information with those we encounter, attend as many local events of groups who support us and even those that do not without being aggressive and encourage all into our loving, sharing, peaceful global family. We need to be visible in the communities we live in and in the process create opportunities to dialogue, not speak down to or disparage others, but employ honor and respect to all.

Symbolic gestures and actions, such as petitions, letters, demonstrations, etc, are wonderful and necessary but we must live PEACE daily because Peace simply is. It is up to us, each one of us, to live Peace and act Peacefully.

Thank you for you kind attention.

Laura Savinkoff.

(Conclusion next issue)

