



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

Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm in the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72nd Ave. & 7th Street

White Poppies Are for Peace
Excerpts from Peace Pledge Union web site: <http://www.ppu.org.uk/whitepoppy/>

The idea of decoupling Armistice Day, the red poppy and later Remembrance Day from their military culture dates back to 1926, just a few years after the British Legion was persuaded to try using the red poppy as a fundraising tool in Britain.

A member of the No More War Movement suggested that the British Legion should be asked to imprint 'No More War' in the centre of the red poppies instead of 'Haig Fund' and failing this, pacifists should make their own flowers.

The details of any discussion with the British Legion are unknown but as the centre of the red poppy displayed the 'Haig Fund' imprint until 1994 it was clearly not successful. A few years later the idea was again discussed by the Co-operative Women's Guild. In 1933 the first white poppies appeared on Armistice Day (called Remembrance Day after World War Two). The white poppy was not intended as an insult to those who died in the First World War - a war in which many of the white poppy supporters lost husbands, brothers, sons and lovers - but a challenge to the continuing drive to war. The following year the newly founded Peace Pledge Union began widespread distribution of the poppies and their annual promotion.

The idea for a white poppy arose from the concerns of the wives, mothers, sisters and lovers of the men who had died and been injured in World War One. Increasingly aware of the likelihood of another war, they chose this symbol 'as a pledge to Peace that war must not happen again'. In 1933 the Women's Co-operative Guild distributed the first white poppies. The following year the PPU joined with the Guild and later took over the much-enlarged distribution as Europe once again headed to war.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) White Poppies
Where does the money go?

Through the white poppy our aim is primarily to raise issues. We distribute the white poppies each year to challenge the view that war and preparations for war are necessary or inevitable. Any money raised over and above the cost of producing, publicizing and distributing the white poppies goes to fund our education work, some of which can be seen on our main [website](#).

The Peace Pledge Union is the oldest secular pacifist organization in Britain. Since 1934 it has been campaigning for a warless world. From [anti bombing](#) campaigns during WW2 to protest at the remote controlled [drone](#) assassinations of today.

War is a crime against humanity. I renounce war, and am therefore determined not to support any kind of war. I am also determined to work for the removal of all causes of war.'

So [why](#), in the 21st century, with all our skills, knowledge and resources, are we still waging war?

Some of what we do:

-- **our international** white poppy project challenges the beliefs, values and institutions that make war inevitable, and presents an alternative view of security and how to achieve it without violence.

--**our education** for peace programme offers a wealth of resources to promote a better understanding of the causes of war - it is not inevitable - and provides an awareness of the many alternative strategies to resolve conflicts nonviolently. War can be prevented.

- **we are** campaigning against the growing militarisation of education.

-- **our print** and electronic resources range from CDs through practical books, such as *Saying no to violence* or *Refusing to Kill* and our serial publications.

(Continued page 2)

To Do

White Poppies: some may still be available in Grand Forks at Joggas, Kocomos, New West Trading, the USCC offices in Grand Forks and Castlegar and in Nelson through KAIROS until Nov. 11th.



No other events or actions are planned for November but please do watch for announcements if anything does develop.

(From page 1) **White Poppies**

Human security we believe means individual freedom from basic insecurities. Human beings have a right to live with dignity and security, and an obligation to help each other when that security is threatened. All human life is of equal worth, and it is not acceptable that human lives become cheap in desperate situations. *War - we say no.*

From the BPI: We thank the businesses that have so kindly displayed the poppies. And we are very grateful to our community for showing your support for this symbol of living and acting Peace. At this printing we have almost sold out. That is a wonderful problem to have—selling out of a positive and creative symbol; so now we know that we will have to order even more next year. There may be a few still left at Kocomos, Joggas, the Women’s Resource Center and New West Trading Company, so check it out. Again, thank you our brothers and sisters for caring enough to support the work of the BPI, as well as the groups worldwide saying it is time to Live Peace. Thank you!

Canadian Catholic Organization from Development and Peace presentation on Oct. 5th & 6th, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church in Grand Forks.

The theme for the Development and Peace (D&P) Education and Action campaign for this year is “A Voice for Justice.”

D&P and other NGOs have been receiving urgent action requests from many places in the world, asking for help. The developed world, that we live in, is more and more using the resources of these countries. The problem is that the ordinary people are not benefiting from the resource extraction.

We live in a community and area that has a history in mining. This makes the information linking Canadian companies to unjust treatment of people in other places very disturbing for us.

In past years social justice groups have urged our government to establish an effective means to listen to and investigate the concerns of people where Canadian companies operate. We asked that the Government establish a real legislated, extractive sector ombudsman. When a bill was presented to Parliament the bill was defeated by six (6) votes. Instead, the Federal Government created the office of Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS), with a Counselor. This was to be a way to

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **Development and Peace** address complaints from affected communities. This mechanism has not been effective. Only three situations have been reviewed and in two of these the companies withdrew from the program so the investigation ceased.

Canada is a big player in the world when it comes to mining. Nearly 75% of the world’s mining and exploration companies are listed on the Canadian stock Exchanges. This is due to favorable stock market regulatory frameworks, tax incentives and protection from prosecution. We, as Canadians, have a particular responsibility to hold companies and our government to account for the impact of this industry on the lives of people. These are people who do not have the opportunity to represent their own interests.

Not all mines violate human rights and disregard human dignity but the ones that do, are tarnishing the image of Canadian Mining and of Canada.

Ed. Note: Thank you to Joyce Vaugeois for sharing this article with us. It lets us know that there are many who are concerned and are doing what they can to alleviate the suffering of people and our planet. For information on how to join this call to action please contact Joyce, Sacred Heart Church in Grand Forks or the Catholic Church in your area.

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

Alexander Pope

Violence as a way of gaining power...is being camouflaged under the guise of tradition, national honor [and] national security...

Alfred Adler

A great war leaves a country with three armies: an army of cripples, an army of mourners, and an army of thieves.

Anonymous (German)

War is not an adventure. It is a disease. It is like typhus.

Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Justice for Indigenous Peoples

Solidarity with Mi'kmaq Anti-Fracking Protest!

By: Canadian Peace Alliance: Oct. 18, 2013

The Canadian Peace Alliance, Canada's largest peace network stands in solidarity with the Elsipogtog First Nation and is calling on all our member groups and supporters to participate in ongoing actions and protests. The violent attack by the RCMP on peaceful protesters is another shameful act in the long history of brutality against indigenous people and must be opposed.

The CPA rejects agendas of successive Canadian governments, which have abused, ignored or steamrolled over indigenous rights. This history of abuse and conquest is the same being used against first peoples the world over. It is done in the name of war, of money and of commerce.

This Harper government is seeking to spend half a trillion dollars on militarism and war as articulated in the Canada First Defence Strategy while at the same time perpetuating the lie that there is no money for things like great lakes protection, or proper support for Indigenous communities.

Harper's military agenda was outlined in the Canadian Forces Counter-Insurgency Manual's targeting of Indigenous peoples as military adversaries. An early draft of the manual cited "ambush, deception and killing" as potential tactics that may be used against "insurgents" including Indigenous peoples in Canada. While this was removed after public outcry that it was included at all in the earlier draft speaks volumes about this government's view of Indigenous peoples.

Fundamentally, the CPA supports the right to self-determination for all peoples whether in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine or anywhere they are struggling against occupation.

Indigenous people in the Middle East, Central Asia and here at home have seen the real face of the federal government's disdain for human rights and basic human decency – the road to Kandahar passed through Gustafsen Lake, Ipperwash, and Oka and now Elsipogtog.

The Harper government shamefully obstructed the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and even though the government has finally adopted it, still refuses to abide by the central principle of free, prior, and informed consent.

Specifically, the CPA calls on the federal and provincial governments to uphold Indigenous people's rights to say no to "development" on their traditional lands.

Book & Film Recommendations



Books

Little Black Lies: Corporate & Political spin in the Global War for Oil

By: Jeff Gailus

Publisher: Rocky Mountain Books © 2013

Jeff Gailus effectively and passionately dissects the war on truth that has come to define the global battle for oil. It is a battle fought not with bullets and bombs but with a dark and deceitful web of Little Black Lies that poses a threat not only to environmental and human health, but also to our moral and social well being.

A book that spurs us to question and explore what is happening in Canada's ambition to be a leading oil supplier. The battle here does not use bullets and bombs but the same players do use bullets and bombs elsewhere and so we are also complicit in the resources wars raging all around the world. Read and think and decide what you are willing to live with and how.



Films

Some films are donated by the No Boundaries Film Club to the Grand Forks Public Library

[New films will become available after the Festival in Feb. 2014 but if you do have a film to recommend please let us know.]

The below film was screened in Grand Forks on Oct. 21st and donated to the BPL. If you wish to view it let us know.

Gold Fever

Producer: Northland Films © 2013

Documents the impact of a massive Canadian gold mine on a remote Mayan community in Guatemala's breathtaking highlands. The community is divided between those who see the benefits the mine brings in terms of jobs and training and those who see the threats the mine poses to their ancestral lands, culture and rights. Commentators Noam Chomsky, Magali Rey Rosa, and 'economic 'hit man' John Perkins explore the connections between Wall Street and San Miguel Ixtahucan, asking along the way; "what is the value of the one place we have to live?" For more info go to www.GoldFeverMovie.com/TakeAction.

Ed. Note: If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel would be of interest or informative please let us know. Email the name of the book, the author and the publisher with a brief explanation of the book, and for the film the name, the producer and a brief explanation of the contents to Laura at l4peace@telus.net. Thank you.

On the Way to Elsipogtog First Nation

By: Laura Savinkoff

As the news of the Mi'kmaq Anti-Fracking protest spread a group of concerned people were moved by the Spirit of Love and made a momentous decision. In contact with brothers and sisters across Turtle Island, especially the land named Canada, a group of young Indigenous gathered to make their way to New Brunswick. The caravan was joined by others and as they traveled with communities along the way lending support and encouragement.

Their second stop was in Grand Forks. The local Idle No More organizer contacted the BPI on the Oct 22nd. After some hurried calls we arranged a venue and a lunch. About 30 people met at the Slavonic Senior Citizens Center. We heard these young people speak of their deep concern for our planet that is being continually attacked by greedy corporations and governments more concerned with shortsighted financial success than the sustainability and survival of the Earth. They explained that what we were hearing on the news was not the full story of what was happening in New Brunswick or even on the lands that their varied nations/tribes and all of us live on. The destruction brought about by 'fracking', 'tar sands extraction, etc was not simply an Aboriginal issue because once the water and land is poisoned, all of us are affected; all of us will no longer be able to live, to survive.

Our Grand Forks and Boundary Community showed our concern and support through words expressed by Patrick Stephenson of Idle No More, JJ Verigin from the Doukhobor Community and Kootenay Region United Nations Association and Laura Savinkoff from the Boundary Peace Initiative, the Canadian Peace Alliance and the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition. Our collective deeds included lunch as well as mounds of food and money (almost \$400) to aid them on their tip.

We invited them to stop on their way back so we would have the privilege of hosting them, albeit with more notice we would be sure to be more organized and more in number. Our love and support joined them in their two vehicles as they drove away. On Friday, Nov. 1st, they were in Quebec.

When they return we ask you to join us in welcoming them back to demonstrate our concern for Mother Earth and support for those who have the dedication and courage to stand up and say—stop raping the land, water, air and humanity; let's live in harmony as one global family and ensure all are treated with dignity, respect and honor. Thank you to all who readjusted their day to spend it with our sisters and brothers from the Western coast of Canada through whom we are also extending our love to the Eastern coast of Canada.



Some of the travellers to New Brunswick
(Photo by Barry Verigin)



Group photo with the travellers—some local people had already left.
(Photo by Barry Verigin)

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles. All articles are the responsibility of the author and may not be common consensus. To submit an article, 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, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs.
Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for emails of
all MPs, Ministers at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>