



**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)

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

**To Do**

Join us to honor all past and present victims of nuclear weapons and then act to eliminate the enchantment with the full nuclear chain, from uranium mining to power plants such as Fukushima and Chernobyl to DU to bombs.

**August 6<sup>th</sup> Hiroshima Day @ 6 pm @ the Mir Center Selkirk College in Castlegar**

**August 9<sup>th</sup>—Nagasaki Day @ 7 pm in Gyro Park Grand Forks**

**Who Stands to Gain?**

**By: Jack Blower**

Let's take a moment to think rationally about the Malaysian plane crash in Ukraine.

First off—who stands to gain from this plane going down? There are two obvious winners here.

#1—the Kiev government has been crying out for more war materials from Europe and the US. If Russia can be blamed they are certain to be granted all they wish. So, there is a motive to spread the myth of Russian involvement.

#2—the other country to gain from the incident, of course, is the United States, which wants to be the only strong power in the World and is working full time trying to discredit and weaken Russia. It makes no sense to think that Russia would bring down the wrath of the world by being involved in any way. The same goes for the Eastern Ukraine that is under siege from Kiev because it does not fancy a World Bank partnership with the EU. With good reason! Russia is suffering from trade and financial sanctions from the EU and extra sanctions applied by the US as part of their 'kill Russia at any cost' campaign. Of course, Russia is not going to harm a civilian flight and risk escalation of anti-Russian feelings and sanctions.

Our bought and paid for Western media is spreading false propaganda from political spin doctors that purport to make the Eastern Ukraine guilty, with Russian help, of shooting the Malaysian plane down. All fantastic conjecture while ignoring the fact that the Kiev government has forces in the same area equipped with Russian made missiles and launchers! AND THEY HAVE A MOTIVE! Do not believe the message from the media, which is passed to them by the same liars that claimed Saddam Hussein of Iraq had 'weapons of mass destruction and was planning to take over the world'.

Here is another thought—any country that would invade another country under false pretenses and kill MILLIONS would also shoot down a civilian plane for political purposes.

**Continuous Protest at the Israeli Consulate in Toronto**

**Stop the Bombardment of Gaza: Boycott Israeli Apartheid: Free Palestine**

On 24 July 2014, starting at 9 am, people of conscience, including Muslims, Jews, and Christians, are coming together at the Israeli consulate in Toronto for a three day continuous vigil to call attention to the frightening slaughter of the Palestinian people in Gaza and condemn both the Israeli government and the complicity of Canada. We demand that the Canadian government and the international community call for an immediate cessation of Israel's assault against Palestinians in Gaza.

This is the fourth brutal military attack on Gaza since 2006, inflicted on a besieged civilian population intentionally deprived by Israel of the basic necessities of life. We decry the active but silent complicity of the Canadian institutions that enable and profit from Israel's militarism: the public pension funds and Canada's weapon component industries, the Canadian government and political party leaders who refuse to support UN ceasefires and who never invoke the Responsibility to Protect the people of Gaza.

We are outraged by the many other extreme situations of mass murder and cruelty in the world today. But Israel is unique in its pretensions of being the victim when it is one of the world's largest military powers and the possessor of nuclear weapons, its pretensions of being a democracy and of having superior values while harshly discriminating against non-Jews. Israel is unique in having the unquestioning political and economic support for its wars from Canada and major world powers.

Israel sets a dangerous international precedent of legal impunity. Ominous for world safety, the Gaza attacks serve as a proving ground for perfecting and

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## (From page 1) **Continuous Protest**

and marketing unconventional weapons and modes of warfare and surveillance. We join with people internationally in our protest against Israel.

Canadian Jewish Holocaust survivor Ursula Franklin, speaking against Israel's 2009 attack on Gaza, said Never Again means "never again for all people." Now, in 2014, Israeli historian Ilan Pappé calls Israeli policies of racism and violence an "incremental genocide." Resist Ethnic Cleansing From Turtle Island to Palestine!



Dear Friend,

The assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza is continuing with no plans for a lasting ceasefire in sight. In fact, there is a great danger of an escalation to a ground invasion.

Canadian politicians in all parties have failed to take any meaningful action to stop the killing and the government of Stephen Harper has called for the world community to support Israel's war crimes. We need to show them that the people of Canada are opposed to the collective punishment of civilians in Gaza.

The Canadian Peace Alliance is calling on its member groups to oppose this brutality and to organize demonstrations - or join those already organized - in solidarity with Palestine this week.

Organizing a protest? [Let us know (<mailto:info@canadianpeace.org>) so we can help promote it.

***Ed. Note:** Actions over the last few weeks were held in: Kelowna, Saskatoon, London, Ont., Ottawa, St. Catharines, Waterloo, Nanaimo, Missagauaga, Toronto, Hamilton, Vancouver, Halifax, Windsor, Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal and many more around the world. Please continue to act in your local areas and let the CPA know of your plans.*

I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear annihilation... I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow... I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Address in Acceptance of Nobel Peace Prize - 10 December 1964

## **Who Really Benefits from Canada's Tax Giveaways?**

By: Kayle Hatt (Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives)

In late May, the Parliamentary Budget Officer released a long-awaited report into the costing and distributional analysis of the tax measures implemented by the federal Conservatives and former Liberal government since 2005. The PBO put the total price tag of the tax cuts implemented during this time at \$30.4 billion annually. This breaks down to \$17.1 billion on the income tax side and \$13.3 billion from the GST/HST cuts. This amount *does not* include cuts to the federal corporate income tax estimated in the range of \$13 billion annually. In total, then, federal tax revenues are in the region of \$43.4 billion lower today than they were a decade ago.

For comparison, consider that reducing post-secondary tuition fees to 1992 levels, as proposed by this year's CCPA Alternative Federal Budget, would cost only \$2.8 billion. Eliminating all university fees in Canada would cost \$5.9 billion a year. For less than the money 'saved' through tax cuts, we could buy both a national pharmacare program (for about \$4.5 billion) and start a national affordable childcare plan (for roughly \$6 billion).

Some on the right of the political spectrum might see \$43.4 billion in annual tax cuts as something to be celebrated. But when you look at what that money could have gone towards, it's obvious the cuts represent a missed opportunity; they have undermined the capacity of our government.

Additionally, consider that these tax cuts were all either implemented or allowed to continue during the period of deficits in recent years. The fact that this government has given away such large amounts in taxes while it was in the red undermines its supposed "financial responsibility" credentials. As CCPA economist Armine Yalnizyan said at the launch of the 2014 AFB: "Canada doesn't have a deficit problem. Canada has a revenue problem."

One of the most interesting things about the PBO report is its distributive analysis of who benefits from these tax measures across the income spectrum and to what degree. From much of the news coverage and chatter on Twitter, it is low-and-middle-income earners who gained the most; therefore the tax cuts were "progressive." The reality is more nuanced and depends on how you define "benefits."

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## (From page 2) **Who Really Benefits**

The PBO provided two ways to look at the distributive effect of the tax cuts: first, as a percentage of after-tax-income, and second, in a raw dollar value broken down by decile (i.e. ten slices of the income spectrum, from poorest to richest). Looking at the tax cuts as a decile as a percentage of a person's total income, we see that those in the third poorest decile appear to have gained the most since they are saving four per cent of their income through tax cuts. The benefits relative to income decline from there. The higher up the income spectrum you go, the lower your tax cut *as a proportion of your income*.

While this meets the technical definition of progressive taxation, just because lower-income households get a higher benefit as a percentage of their income does not mean that most of the benefits go to lower income individuals. Think about it in real dollar terms: four per cent of \$26,905 (the average after tax household income in the third decile) is far less than 2.3 per cent of \$122,146 (the average income in the ninth decile).

If every household in the country got the same share of the \$30.4 billion tax cut, each household would get \$1,939. However, for tax cuts since 2005, according to the PBO analysis, the bottom 50 per cent of Canadian households average benefits of only \$1,130 while the richest five per cent households received average tax breaks of \$4,170—almost four times higher. The cuts look far from progressive from this perspective.

Put another way, the top 20 per cent of income earners, who make at least \$109,000 per year, received more than the entire bottom half of households put together. And nearly half of the total spending on these tax cuts (\$14.9 billion) goes to those in the top three income deciles (graph from article not included).

In short, the Conservative tax cuts have been expensive and it would be grossly inaccurate to say that most of the benefits went to the middle class. You might ask, why we're giving tax breaks to Canada's richest when by all accounts income inequality is pronounced and worsening in Canada. Unfortunately, we don't have an answer because the policy doesn't make sense to us either.

## **Areva and Niger's uranium fight** (Source: Feb 5, 2014 Reuters)

By: Daniel Flynn and Geert De Clercq

When France began mining uranium ore in the desert of northern Niger in the early 1970s, Arlit was a cluster of miners' huts stranded between the sun-blasted rocks of the Air Mountains and the sands of the Sahara.

The 1973 OPEC oil embargo changed that. France embraced nuclear power to free itself from reliance on foreign oil and overnight this remote corner of Africa became crucial to its national interests.

Arlit has grown into a sprawling settlement of 117,000 people, while France now depends on nuclear power for three-quarters of its electricity, making it more reliant on uranium than any country on earth.

Niger has become the world's fourth-largest producer of the ore after Kazakhstan, Canada and Australia.

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## **Book & Film Recommendations**



### **Books**

#### **Peace Pilgrim Her Life and Works in Her Own Words**

By: Friends of Peace Pilgrim © 1982 (a non-profit organization devoted to spreading Peace Pilgrim's message)

Publisher: Ocean Tree Books

"I shall remain a wonderer until mankind has learned the way of peace..." She walked more than 25,000 miles, carrying in her blue tunic her only possessions. She crossed America for nearly three decades, bearing the simplest messages: This is the way of peace—Overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love. Peace Pilgrim talked about peace among nations, between people, and the most important Inner Peace. Penniless, walking with no organizational backing, Peace Pilgrim touched the lives and hearts of countless thousands of Americans. Some were charmed by her simple but cheerful presence; many others were profoundly inspired by her message and her remarkable lifestyle.

*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](mailto:l4peace@telus.net). Thank you.*

Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one.

John Lennon

Peace is its own reward.

Mahatma Gandhi

Grudges are for those who insist that they are owed something; forgiveness, however, is for those who are substantial enough to move on."  
Criss Jami, Salomé: In Every Inch; In Every Mile

(From page 3) **Areva and Niger's uranium fight**

But uranium has not enriched Niger. The former French colony remains one of the poorest countries on earth. More than 60 percent of its 17 million people survive on less than \$1 a day.

Arlit is a dusty and neglected place, scoured by desert sandstorms and barely touched by the mineral wealth it ships off to Europe each year. "There are neighborhoods which go without water for three weeks at a time," said Deputy Mayor Hassan Hamani. "There are schools where the pupils have to sit on the floor or study in straw huts."

Now Niger's government is demanding a better deal from Paris, and specifically from state-owned nuclear company Areva. The two sides began talking more than a year ago but failed to clinch an agreement before Areva's 10-year mining contracts expired on December 31.

Areva suspended production at its two sites in Niger in mid-December: the open-cut Somair mine at Arlit and giant underground Cominak pit nearby. The company says the closure was for maintenance but Synamin, a union that represents mining workers, called it a negotiating tactic. Production resumed at the start of February.

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Areva and Niger's just-expired agreements have never been made public. But Reuters has reviewed documents which reveal that Areva's mines pay no export duties on uranium, no taxes on materials and equipment used in mining operations, and a royalty of just 5.5 percent on the uranium they produce. A spokesman for Areva declined to confirm the authenticity of the documents and did not comment on their contents.

Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou says the deals are a throwback to the post-colonial era, when France played a dominant role in the economies of its former African territories. His government wants to cut the tax breaks and raise the royalty rate - its largest source of income from the mines - to as much as 12 percent.

That would be more than the 5 percent charged by most Australian states, but bring Niger into line with the 13 percent charged by Canada's uranium-producing province of Saskatchewan over the past decade. In Kazakhstan, the official rate is 18.5 percent. Areva produces uranium in both Canada and Kazakhstan but would not detail the royalties it pays in those countries. (It explores for uranium in Australia but does not mine it there).

Mining Minister Omar Hamidou Tchiana, leading the negotiations for Niger, told Reuters the government wants to increase uranium revenues to at least 20 percent of the budget, from just 5 percent at present.

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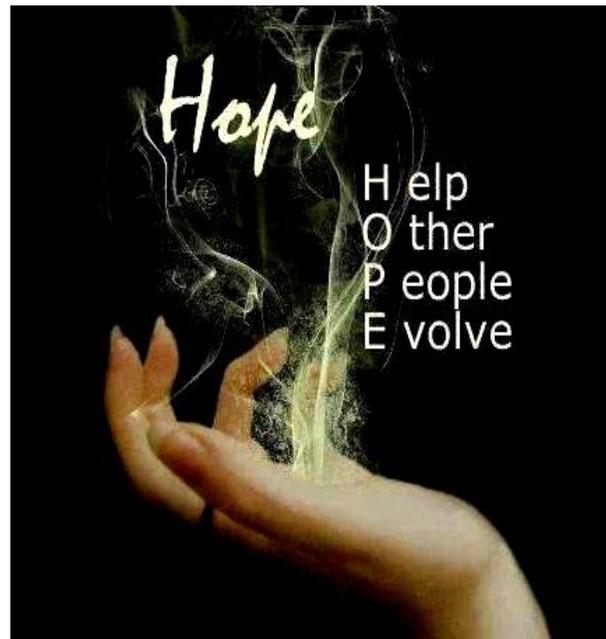
(From last column) **Areva and Niger's uranium**

"For 40 years, Niger has been one of the world's largest uranium producers, but it's still one of the poorest countries on the planet," he said. "At the same time, Areva has grown to be one of the world's largest companies. You see the contrast?"

Areva, which produced nearly one fifth of the world's uranium in 2012, says a higher royalty rate would make its business in Niger unprofitable.

With uranium prices down about 70 percent from their peak in 2007, a diplomatic source in Paris said Areva would not agree to a big increase in what it pays Niger. "Niger needs to take into account that Areva is not in great financial health and that the uranium price is low and not about to increase anytime soon," said the source.

(More next issue)



In case you can't make out the text here it is.  
What a wonderful statement.

**HOPE**  
**Help**  
**Other**  
**People**  
**Evolve**

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, and 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>