



Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the 2002 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 suspends regular meetings until at least 3 commit to attend. For info call 250 442 0434.

To Do

The BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Fall Conference is on **Oct. 24th @ 9:30am** in **Nelson** at the Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, 813 Ward Street in the Jubilee Room. Info @ 250 442 0434 or L4peace@telus.net

There is no way to peace; peace is the way.

A.J. Muste,

The Federal Election is **October 19th** Remember to **vote.**

A Prayer for World Peace

By: Joyce Rumble for the International Day of Peace 2015 in Grand Forks

TANSIE (Metis for Hello) Everyone

Creator we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiven; the patience to understanding; and the endurance to except the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right. May w put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in the world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created.

ALL MY RELATIONS



Climate Change Can Lead to a World of Peace

By: Laura Savinkoff

Some concerned people gathered at the Slavonic Senior Citizens Center on Sept. 20th to mark International Day of Peace. Since the United Nations designated this day in 1986 Grand Forks has held an event, sometimes with a walk, other times a rally, sometimes a film and this year a conference. We entitled our event "How War Affects Climate Change and How Climate Change Affects Peace". The UN theme was "Partnerships for Peace—Dignity for All. A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. Let us stand with the millions of people across the world who are suffering the devastating impact of violence and conflict and share ideas and plans for helping and supporting them in their time of dire need". And so the BPI and our partners, KRUNA and the USCC Working Groups, continue building partnerships within our local community while sharing ideas to help ourselves and our global family to adapt to climate change if we're unable to stop the slide into the devastation that the changing climate is and will bring.

We began with a Prayer (included separately in this newsletter) by Metis Elder Joyce Rumble along with a drumming and song by Patrick Stephenson a 1st Nations brother joined by Reverend Simon Shenstone from the Anglican Church—partners all. The drum song is a traditional one used to begin gatherings expressing gratitude to The Creator and seeking guidance. What a great way to start--honoring the first inhabitants of Turtle Island. With quite a broad spectrum of our community in attendance we added to our partnerships.

Four knowledgeable and wise people accepted our invitation to sit on the panel:

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Reverend Simon Shenstone from Holy Trinity Anglican Church, JJ Verigin from the USCC and Kootenay Region United Nations Association, Graham Watt from Kettle River Management and Patrick Stephenson of the 1st Nations and Idle No More. Each had 10 minutes for opening statements followed by a Q&A and then closing remarks.

Simon thanked all for coming and explained that he must leave early to conduct Church services in Greenwood. All our Peace gatherings fill my heart with hope and inspiration. War's violence and environmental destruction prevents nations from cooperating, from working together and creates situations such as the refugee crisis we see today. Some of the refugees are a result of drought, lack of clean water and hunger. As these desperate people race to escape the effects of war it creates further violence and frustrations. War contributes to Climate Change, as we saw during the Iraq war as oil wells burned and other actions that spew pollution into the air, water and soil. But, I believe that all the affects of Climate Change are a great opportunity for human kind. This has happened before, 17,000 years ago there was great upheaval which spurred a time of spiritual enlightenment and it is now our turn to accept the potential for a positive cooperative shift. Since I am of the Christian faith I feel we must whole heartedly live the way of Christ, not only in words but as a way of daily living. We may not be able to stop the effects of climate change but we do have the opportunity for the transformation to a life of cooperation, respect, and honor and love in order to survive and grow spiritually.

JJ thanked all for coming. I not only agree but am inspired by Simon's words. Although I am not well versed in the details of Climate Change but am aware of and concerned with the devastation to the physical environment but to the human environment as well to all humanity, all existence but especially in war zones. The rhetoric and demonization created by the war mentality is verbal diarrhea. It is not only the use of weapons that is the domain of the conqueror and oppressor but the preparation of those weapons that contribute to the problems we face. It is only through cooperation and spiritual transformation, evolution that we can and will be able to present an alternative perspective and then have a better, more positive way of life. It is not good enough to just talk about issues, we must actively counter such actions as we've witnessed in Canada under Harper. We should look into the past and discover the valuable gems left behind in order to move forward.

Graham, as an ecologist and hydrologist, looks at the interrelatedness of how we live so as to find a way through this climate crisis. I like and agree with the perspective of a spiritual drive of cooperation, because it is only through cooperating that we can avert the most devastating impacts of climate change. Water and the climate are related since every degree of warming in the atmosphere means that there is an 8-9% rise in the moisture in the air that leads to more extreme weather such as more violent storms, more drought, higher temperatures in some regions and colder in others.

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We must look at our use of fossil fuels as the driver of climate change. We are all to one degree or another responsible for creating the situation and so we also have a responsibility to lower or eliminate our usage of fossil fuels. We have the technology for alternative energy production and the means to lessen the impacts of climate change worldwide.

Patrick stated that Whiteman's version of history is wrong. The First Nations do have our story, our history. We've lived here for thousands of years. Whiteman functions on the principle of exclusion and racism, and thinks they can give someone freedom. No one can GIVE others freedom. It is a choice that carries with it a responsibility. War is all about money breeding extremism and racism. We must learn about the life cycle—we are born, live and die—we were, are and will be. An elder many years ago explained to me what will happen to Turtle Island in the future. He advised me to keep an eye on the ice-fields and map water sources. I've been watching and can see that some glaciers are now gone and others receding very quickly. So this elder was wise and predicted our predicament accurately. The solution from my perspective is to work together, to cooperate, as Simon, JJ and Graham have already stated. We need to think and act for the future if the world we know is not already doomed. We need to challenge the status quo and state clearly that our present life style is unjust, unequal, and unsustainable. We need to understand that we must act, live with honor and respect for natural and universal law and stop using social engineering to control and manipulate people. Our prophesy says that Turtle Island will be extremely dry, a dessert, so we need to adapt and learn cooperate, to work as one. To have peace we must live peacefully which will bring peace. To do that we must also stop thought patterns that focus on power over, control of and domination of others and nature.

After a short break we resumed for questions and comments. An elder commented that we need to question the historical narrative that's been given to us and purge the adversarial attitudes promoted by religions and realize that throughout history people have been on the move; so the present migration is not a new phenomenon. JJ responded and said that he agreed with Gandhi who said leaders should not be venerated as we do now but instead we must all accept personal responsibility and choices on how to act and organize and live the life we wish to have. Sadly, JJ said, there is very little talk about PEACE in today's world; rather the narrative is about security, domination, power and control; the Roman Empire did not fall, it just moved to North America. Graham said that if we see life as a cycle rather than the 'hereafter' then we'd act differently and accept our personal responsibility to not act violently.

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Patrick explained that the life cycle builds on the bones of the ancestors so I am not frightened of death because fear of mortality is not natural law; First Nations do not subscribe to the concept that one white guy came from the sky dogma of the organized religions that continue to engender violence.

A woman spoke to the need to question if something is real and healthy. She feels that when we do good and kind things, when we live and act out of love and peace we do feel better emotionally and physically, which then feeds and nurtures our bodies, minds and spirit. But with the present circumstances of climate change and violence that rage around the world, many are anxious and frustrated and are seeking solutions. JJ stated that too many think that religion and science are separate entities—they are interrelated. It's true that religions have conditioned us to wait for and follow leaders but we must unlearn that and accept personal responsibility, JJ added. Patrick agreed and added that we need to question authority and think critically in order to expand our minds and then be steadfast in our understanding, change our behavior and attitude and through that we help others. Graham is painfully aware of the hypocrisy of his personal consumption that contributes to greenhouse gas emissions but none of us can totally avoid it. What we can do is take responsibility to lower our footprint by buying local, growing our own food, travelling less, etc so as to lower our despair and build resistance and through that heal the land and the spirit, Graham added.

This same woman spoke to the planned obsolescence built into all products at present and suggested we look for the story behind what we buy—where it came from and how it was made. We can insist, through non-violent communication, that manufacturers create recyclable and reusable products, such as canning jars. JJ agreed and added that all this for profit attitude is learned behavior and therefore can be unlearned; we can build solidarity locally by raising the issues and questioning the status quo and then it's each person's responsibility to figure out how they wish to respond. Peace, JJ added, is not la-te-da, all is beautiful and great, just flit around and ignore the reality of what surrounds us because doing nothing is not an option-- Peace includes accepting, working with, valuing and honoring the differences among us.

JJ, due to health reasons, apologized that he must leave so that left us with two panelists. A question to the panelist was whether they thought the fire situation this year in the Boundary and other regions is related to climate change? Patrick emphatically said, YES; I've seen a drastic change in weather patterns over the last 10 years; spring has disappeared and this year we are 3-4 weeks ahead of seasonal changes and the Earth is out of sync and balance. Graham agreed and explained that this year's drought is a result of the loss of winter and no real spring; individual events build onto each other and yes, the current weather pattern is a result of climate change. (Continued next page 4)

Book Recommendations



About Canada: Poverty

By Jim Silver Publisher: Fernwood Publishing © October 2014

For a country as wealthy as Canada, poverty is utterly unnecessary. In *About Canada: Poverty*, Jim Silver illustrates that poverty is about more than a shortage of money: it is complex and multifaceted and can profoundly damage the human spirit. At the centre of this analysis are Canada's neoliberal economic policies, which have created conditions that make a growing number of people vulnerable to low income, vanishing public services and poor physical health. Silver also highlights the ways in which poverty is intimately connected to colonialism and racial and gender discrimination, and finds that the political and economic policies enacted by the Canadian government serve only a powerful minority, while producing a range of negative outcomes for the rest of us, especially the poor. Silver points out that the costs of poverty — relating to health care, crime, education and unemployment — are higher than the costs of solving poverty, and he lays out an achievable strategy for its dramatic reduction in Canada. When poverty is understood as resulting from political choices, its elimination requires putting pressure on governments to ensure that different choices are made.

Jim Silver is a professor and chair of the Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg. His research interests are in inner-city, poverty-related, and community development issues. His most recent book is *Moving Forward, Giving Back: Transformative Aboriginal Adult Education* (Fernwood 2013). Jim is a member of the Manitoba Research Alliance and the leader of the Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization stream of its SSHRC Partnership project, "Partnering for Change: Community-Based Solutions for Aboriginal and Inner-City Poverty."

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A 92-year old lady spoke about the great weather changes she has lived through in her lifetime. When she lived in Saskatchewan way back when there would be at least 6-8 feet of snow but now there is very little to replenish the soil. As well frost comes later and later every year. We must have faith to give us the strength to survive the changes that are coming but we must also live with respect and love for all people and the Earth. All agreed but there was no need to add to this wise woman's words.

A man suggested a plan may be to encourage or insist that scientists across all disciplines come together to look for the underlying causes for climate change besides the current dialogue. Graham, since this is his area of work, agreed that this would be helpful and added that the issue of acidification that leads to the expansion of warming water of the oceans is a complex issue and does deserve more diverse and extensive research. All agreed that there is damage from deforestation and therefore we should examine the current local logging practices.

Laura took off her hat as facilitator for a few minutes to make the following comment. We must be aware that war requires weapons and weapons are manufactured and the materials for the weapons require mining. All these steps contribute to carbon emissions and therefore climate change. We must also remember that the nuclear industry is not clean and uses up precious water besides radiating our environment. Even in our area we have uranium exploration holes that continue to spew radiation since the 70s and 80s. As well every bombing raid by one of the military jets emits untold levels of emissions and uses more fossil fuel than I will use for the rest of my life. So, all this needs to be taken into consideration when we talk about climate change and what we can do about it. Yes, we need to do our personal bit but we must also appeal to our governments to stop the war machine and begin to work for an economy and life style free of fossil fuels. All agreed. Now it was time for closing remarks.

Patrick warned us not to believe the studies and reports being put out by the oil corporations that say fossil fuels are not affecting global warming by much—this is false. The biggest issue to deal with is the money and power wielded by these corporations over governments and all our lives. As with this year's fire situation here so many were frightened, terrified that it took a toll on their health. For me I was prepared but not scared. Fear does not help us to deal with life's situations nor with climate change. Water is the current and future resource that will be a driving force of war. So, in order to survive, we must work together. We cooperate or we will die! (Next column)

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: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

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Graham reminded us that we live on a finite planet. Our current lifestyle is not sustainable. We must change our thoughts from endless economic growth to sustainable development and investment. There is a way to approach and ensure that corporations pay attention and change their ways. That is through divestment from any companies that are unwilling to change their methods to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. It's possible. We need to discuss this locally.

An elder thanked the panelists and the BPI for the opportunity to learn so much in such a short time. I realized that we have more similarities than differences and is encouraged.

Laura thanked all for participating and encouraged us to think carefully when we cast our ballots in the election as to which of our local candidates will do the most to address the issue of war and climate change and which party will move the envelop further and faster. The next UN Climate Change conference in Paris is coming up quickly and she doesn't want Canada to once again win the award for doing the least to address climate change. Also she explained that the BPI has suspended regular meetings due to two of the staunchest attendees no longer able to come due to health reasons and urged people to think about coming to two meetings of an hour each in order to make necessary decisions to participate in events, actions, endorsements and plan local activities. The next events that the BPI will be involved with is a fundraiser for the Mir Center for Peace in Castlegar to bring foreign students to a course starting in January called Nonviolent Peace Keeping, which Laura and a young woman will be going. As well the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition conference is on October 24th in Nelson. In the middle of October we will once again have the White Poppy campaign, so watch for the displays and wear the White Poppy proudly. Again, thank you for your support and involvement.

Truth and non-violence are not cloistered virtues but applicable as much in the forum and the legislatures as in the market place.

Mahatma Gandhi, 8 May 1937

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>