



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

BPI sponsors UN Human Rights Day on **Dec. 12th @ 1:30 pm** @ The Slavonic Senior Citizens Center. Come see the film **The Secret Trial 5** and discuss Canada's Security Certificate program--no charges, no trials, indefinite jail and deportations. **Admission is \$5. We are asking for donations to support the legal struggle to stop the certificates and deportations.**

To all the BPI wishes a **Merry Christmas and a New Year** full of Peace, equality, honor and justice for and among our global family.

Gandhi: The Spring of Nonviolence

[From: Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation Oct. 2015 (Submitted by Sandra Hartline)

Love is the strongest force the world possesses and yet it is the humblest imaginable. --Mahatma Gandhi [1]

As I said last week, to create peaceful change, we must begin by remembering who we are in God. I believe this is why Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) was such a powerful instrument of transformation. Thomas Merton writes of Gandhi that "the spirit of non-violence sprang from an inner realization of spiritual unity in himself. The whole Gandhian concept of non-violent action and satyagraha [literally, truth force] is incomprehensible if it is thought to be a means of achieving unity rather than as *the fruit of inner unity already achieved.*" [2]

Gandhi believed the core of his--and our--being is union with God. From this awareness, nonviolence must flow naturally and consistently. In his words: Non-violence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our very being. . . . If love or non-violence be not the law of our being, the whole of my argument falls to pieces. . . . Belief in non-violence is based on the assumption that human nature in its essence is one and therefore unflinchingly responds to the advances of love. . . . If one does not practice non-violence in one's personal relations with others and hopes to use it in bigger affairs, one is vastly mistaken. [3]

References:

- [1] Mahatma Gandhi, edited by Louis Fischer, *The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology of His Writings on His Life, Work, and Ideas* (Vintage Books: 2002), 179.
- [2] Mahatma Gandhi, edited by Thomas Merton, *On Non-Violence* (New Directions: 2007), 10.
- [3] *Ibid.*, 36-38.

The following is a resolution agreed upon at the Oct. 2015 conference of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition and sent to the PM, Party Leaders and all MPs.

Resolution on Nuclear Disarmament

By the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition
In Nelson, BC on October 24th 2105

TO: The Right Honorable Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau and elected Liberal MP's
The Honorable Rona Ambrose, Interim Leader of the Conservative Party and elected Conservative MP's
Thomas Mulcair, NDP Leader, and elected NDP MP's
Elizabeth May, Green Party Leader
Bloc Quebecois Interim Leader and elected Bloc Quebecois MP's

WHEREAS: The Canadian electorate on October 19th 2015 elected a new federal government pledged to work for a more peaceful world by a more "effective diplomacy", by contributing more to United Nations "mediation, conflict-prevention and post-conflict reconstruction", and further pledged "not to buy the F 35 stealth fighter-bomber" and "to end Canada's combat mission in Iraq";

RESPECTING: The majority opinion of Canadians who voted to reject automatic support for NATO as the first option of federal government foreign policy and gives support to the collective security provisions of the UN Charter and its agencies that promote peace through negotiations;
CONDEMNING: Canadian government support for US NATO led coalition wars of regime change in Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq and Syria that have increased global tensions, fueled factional wars, caused untold combatant and civilian casualties and displaced millions causing a refugee crisis in these countries and in Europe;

(From page 1) **Resolution on Nuclear Disarmament**

CONCERNED: That continued Canadian government support for the US led NATO coalition aimed at overthrowing the Syrian Government an ally of Russia and the US led NATO Operation Assurance in Ukraine that provocatively deploys NATO forces to the borders of Russia and increases, by accident or design the danger of nuclear conflict between the militaries of the two major nuclear powers, Russia and the USA;

CONCLUDING: That reducing the danger of nuclear war is the first responsibility of Parliament to protect global and Canadian security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we citizens of the Southern Interior of British Columbia attending a peace conference in Nelson BC on October 24th 2015 call upon Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau and all MP's from all Parliamentary caucuses to:

1. **Support** ending the combat role of Canadian Armed Forces in Iraq;
2. **Support** the withdrawal of Canadian Armed Forces from combat roles in all conflict zones including Syria and Ukraine;
3. **Support** the pledge of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau not to purchase F 35 stealth bombers, an aircraft promoted by NATO and designed to transport and deploy tactical nuclear explosives;
4. **Re-engage** Canadian diplomacy at the UN and at all international forums in support of negotiated agreements to reduce global tensions, to re-vitalize all international agreements that promote universal conventional and nuclear weapons disarmament, for re-affirmation of Canadian support for nuclear non-proliferation and its requirement that the leading nuclear states reduce nuclear stock piles and cease developing advanced methods of nuclear warfare;
5. **Undertake** a Parliamentary review of Canada's membership in NATO with the view of withdrawal from all military alliances and a reaffirmation of the possibilities for strengthening peace by promoting an independent Canadian foreign policy based on respect for the sovereignty of states and the right of all people to choose a path of economic and political development whether or not it accords with any super power model.

Respectfully submitted by BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition members:

The Kelowna Peace Group--Kelowna: Boundary Peace Initiative--Grand Forks: KAIROS--Nelson: Kootenay Region United Nations Association--Castlegar: The Canadian Voice of Women for Peace--Nelson: The Canadian Peace Congress—Slocan City: Peace activists and guests associated with the Kootenay Region Anglican Church, Women Against Gender Based Violence—Burundi: Citizens for Climate Lobby--Nelson: KAIROS—Kaslo and individual activists for peace and social justice.

The following letter was sent to PM Trudeau, all Party Leaders and MPs on behalf of the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition conference Oct. 2015.

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Congratulations Monsieur Trudeau on being elected as Canada's 23rd Prime Minister to form our 43rd Parliament. We also congratulate all Members of Parliament on your election to serve your constituents as well as all Canadians.

On October 24th 2015 delegates from regional and national peace groups and concerned individuals gathered in Nelson, B.C. for the semi-annual conference of the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition (BCSIPC).

Our discussions included the substantial list of campaign promises made by the Liberal Party who now form a majority government with what is considered, under our present electoral system, a strong mandate. Government will be under careful scrutiny by the BCSIPC and other peace, social justice and environmental activists to ensure promises are kept. We will bring forward concerns as they develop, especially in light of present critical peace priorities, including but not exclusive to, disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, nonviolent negotiated resolution to present conflicts and addressing issues before they escalate to conflict.

Delegates were encouraged by the announcement of the withdrawal of Canadian CF-18 jets and troops bombing in Iraq and Syria. However, we do note that no time line has been established for that withdrawal. Therefore, we urge this be done immediately.

We agree with the Liberal position that "Canada is largely out of peacekeeping, something it helped found in the 1950's" and that "now is the need to revitalize and support peacekeeping operations around the world" (*Toronto Star, Sept. 29, 2015*). Therefore we call on the Government of Canada to re-establish our role as 'peacekeepers' and encourage moving to non-violent 'peacemaking'. We urge action so Canada will once again be a respected entity leading negotiated settlements so as to avoid armed conflict. Conference delegates are also encouraged by your position that Canada must be a meaningful member of the United Nations and recommits to peacekeeping operations. We fully agree that Canada must contribute more to the UN's mediation system, conflict-prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts, that we comply with all UN mandates and uphold all its conventions, treaties and resolutions. We agree *it is time for change*, as promised. That change must be for Canada to show its commitment to peace and justice in a conflict-ridden world. It is time to favour and consciously work with the UN rather than with NATO, which in a growing number of people's assessment, the largest military organization in the world and the greatest threat to international peace and security.

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(From page 2) **letter was sent to PM Trudeau**

The expansion of NATO to Russia's borders threatens world peace. NATO strategists recently released a report "Project Atom: Defining US Nuclear Strategy and Posture for 2025-2050" (*Global Research, June 26, 2015*). The thrust of the report is the development of still more powerful tactical nuclear weapons designed to be used in "controlled nuclear operations". While acknowledging that these "small-scale nuclear" assaults would kill millions, "assuming they don't escalate into a global nuclear war", this insane strategy is being given serious consideration by equally insane NATO proponents. We hope that the Liberal Government is not part of this insane thinking and we urge Canada to withdraw membership in NATO and direct Canada's focus to the UN by helping with peace building thereby regaining Canada's position as a 'peacekeeper' and even expanding to be 'non-violent peacemakers'.

The BCSIPC respectfully requests your support and action on our list of peace priorities. We are borrowing from the framework developed by the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and adding a few arising out of our discussions. We hope you will see your way clear to pledge support for these priorities. And we pledge our commitment to work with local, regional, national and international peace, social justice, environmental and civil society organizations. We also wish to alert you to the fact that our concerns are not limited to this list: as issues arise we will seek your support to address and resolve our concerns in a mutually respectful and honorable manner.

Some of our peace priorities:

1. Stop Canada's participation in the bombing of Syria and Iraq
2. Open our borders to refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq and other regions of the world on an on-going basis
3. Cancel the \$15 billion General Dynamics Canada contract to send arms to Saudi Arabia
4. Invest in a green jobs and renewable energy strategy for Canada
5. Cancel the secretive \$26 billion Canadian Surface and Naval Procurement Combatant program, including the F-35s
6. Invest in affordable housing and public transportation
7. Reduce the \$20 billion military spending to pre-2000 levels
8. Redirect military funds to social, health, education and environmental human needs
9. Hold public consultations for a new green paper on national defence and security

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Book Recommendations



The Power of We Day: Moving the World from Me to We

By: Craig Kielburger (Author), Marc Kielburger (Author) © Aug. 30 2013

Publisher: Me to We

A celebration of famous social activists, as well as the remarkable young people committed to making the world a better place.

We Day is the only place in the world where you can find Martin Sheen, Jennifer Hudson, and Magic Johnson rubbing elbows with Nobel Peace Prize laureates and former heads of state—along with tens of thousands of student volunteers dedicated to building a better world. This candid, visually stunning book captures it all.

In *The Power of We Day: Moving the World from Me to We*, with a foreword by Mikhail Gorbachev, celebrated pop culture icons, social activists, and world leaders come together to talk about the causes they care about most. This book shares heart-warming stories, inspiring words, and stunning behind-the-scenes photos of world-renowned musical artists, statesmen, and speakers. *The Power of We Day* also celebrates unsung heroes; the remarkable young people who have made it their mission to make the world a better place.

Ed Note: If you read a book or see a film you feel is of value and interest to others, please let me know at L4peace@telus.net.

I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and religion enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1957

(From page 3) **letter was sent to PM Trudeau**

10. Implement the recommendations of the External Review on Sexual Harassment and Assault in the Canadian military
11. Launch a Public Inquiry into Canada's missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and implement the recommendations promptly
12. Create and implement a national strategy to end gender-based violence
13. Launch a Public Inquiry into Canada's complicity in the torture of Afghan detainees and implement its recommendations promptly
14. Advance the United Nations' Security Council agenda on Women, Peace & Security, showing leadership on putting women at the centre of inclusive peace building in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325
15. Show leadership in nuclear disarmament. Become directly involved with the international meetings to advance a treaty on the total elimination/ban of all nuclear weapons arsenals and delivery systems, based on humanitarian impacts of the development and use of these weapons
16. Establish a Department of Peace with a mandate for nuclear disarmament and the demilitarization of Canada's foreign policy and address all other aspects of peace and social justice
17. Pass the Act Respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil and Gas Corporations in Developing Countries
18. Redirect Canada's responses to violent conflict, ongoing wars and threats of war, with actions grounded in restoring Canada as a peace builder
19. End Canada's alliance with NATO and all other military based alliances
20. Stop the deportation of Iraq War Resisters and grant them refugee status in Canada
21. Certificate system.

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, affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation; we work with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

(From page 3) **letter was sent to PM Trudeau**

21. Stop the deportation of those held under Security Certificates and grant them access to the evidence under which they have been held and the ability to have their cases heard in Canadian courts. Dismantle the Security Certificate system.
22. Repeal Bill C-51
23. Do not ratify the TPP or CETA
24. Address the decline in Universal Health Care in all its aspects with a new and more comprehensive Health Care Accord
25. Repeal Bill C-24
26. Establish a national subsidized child care program
27. Change the electoral system to a form of proportional representation

We also respectfully request a response to our letter either via this email address or by land mail at the above address at your earliest convenience and certainly before May of 2016.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

The following groups were represented at the BCSIPC as well as concerned individuals: The Kelowna Peace Group: Boundary Peace Initiative: KAIROS—Nelson & Kaslo: Kootenay Region United Nations Association: The Canadian Voice of Women for Peace—Nelson: The Canadian Peace Congress—Slocan City: Women Against Gender Based Violence—Burundi: Anglican Church--Kaslo: Citizens for Climate Lobby—Nelson

Being at the service of dialogue and peace also means being truly determined to minimize and, in the long term, to end the many armed conflicts throughout our world. Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.

Pope Francis @ US Congress Sept. 2015

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>