



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 BPI partners with No Boundaries Film Club and invites all to the annual **Film Festival from Feb. 26th to 28th** to learn what we can do to alleviate the suffering of our global family. Come **share food for the mind, the spirit and the physical body.** Watch for details as the time comes closer but certainly mark the time on your calendars.



'Charity chill' melts under friendly government'

By: [Carol Goar](#) Star Columnist Jan 20 2016

Revenue Minister Diane Lebovthillier has a rare opportunity to unlock the potential of Canada's 85,000 charities.

One of Justin Trudeau's first acts as prime minister was to disband Revenue Canada's anti-charity hit squad.

He made it clear to Revenue Minister Diane Lebovthillier in her [mandate letter](#) that he expected her to take it from there: "Allow charities to do their work on behalf of Canadians free of political harassment," he wrote. "Modernize the rules governing the charitable and not-for-profit sectors, working with the minister of finance. This will include clarifying the rules governing 'political activity' with an understanding that charities make an important contribution to public debate and policy."

Environmentalists, anti-poverty activists, human rights defenders, foreign aid advocates, church workers and altruistic citizens across the country let out a collective sigh of relief. [Calvin Sandborn](#), legal director of the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria, said he was "thrilled by this reversal of policy."

For most political observers, that was the end of the story. They ticked off one item on Trudeau's long list of promises and moved on.

But Lisa Lalande of the University of Toronto's [Mowat Centre](#) took a deeper look. She wanted to see — and perhaps help shape — the follow up to the prime minister's good-faith gesture. She brought 20 years of

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(From last column) 'Charity chill' experience in the non-profit sector, the advice of her former peers and her research into the reforms other countries had made. Her [report](#), *On the Mend: Putting the Spark Back into the Government-Charitable Sector Relationship*, is now publicly available.

Lalande gives the Liberal government credit for thawing the "charity chill" that seized the voluntary sector four years ago when former PM Stephen Harper created a [special team of auditors](#) with a budget of \$13 million to scrutinize the activities of charities that questioned or spoke out against his government's policies.

But that's just the first step, she maintains.

Revenue Canada's [rules](#) for charities are vague and confusing. A charity must limit its political activities to 10 per cent of its resources to maintain its tax-exempt status and issue official donation receipts. But there is no clear definition of a political activity. This leaves charities guessing or retaining tax lawyers to be safe.

Federal regulators see charities as boundary-pushers, not problem-solvers, not contributors to public policy, certainly not partners of the government. They enforce the rules without looking at the bigger picture. They penalize deviators regardless of their intentions or the services they provide.

"A shared vision of the (non-profit) sector's purpose and clarity about what constitutes an effective partnership (with the government) are necessary to develop

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coherent policies,” Lalande says. Charities need fewer, not more, bureaucratic constraints. They need a legislative framework that bolsters their efforts to support vulnerable Canadians.

“Policy-makers don’t need to reinvent the wheel,” she says. Several provinces — including Ontario — have embarked on reform initiatives. Non-profit leaders have done a lot of brainstorming about how to strengthen their sector. And countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Britain have already modernized their regulatory regimes.

Britain and Australia have created independent public agencies to rewrite the rules and monitor the activities of charitable organizations. The U.K. [Charities Commission](#), for example, allows political activity provided it is part of a “wider range of activities aimed at furthering the organization’s charitable purposes.”

The Supreme Court of [New Zealand](#) has placed no limit on political activity as long as its purpose is charitable and it “provides benefits to the public or a sufficient section of the public, not just an individual, an organization or a closed group.”

None of these models fits Canada. With shared federal-provincial responsibility for the non-profit sector, Lebouthillier will have to create or adapt her own framework. That might mean establishing an arm’s-length agency to regulate charities; issuing new marching orders to the 270 officials in Revenue Canada’s [charities directorate](#), or coming up with a made-in-Canada hybrid.

“The charitable sector is ready for — and in need of — change,” Lalande says. Circumstances are as good as they’re ever likely to be: a [new minister](#) with a long history of charitable involvement; a government that understands the importance of voluntary organizations; a wave of goodwill toward Syrian refugees; and a desire to cast off the secrecy and excessive partisanship that permeate Ottawa. “Now is the time to work collaboratively to empower and protect the sector while strengthening its ability to work for the public benefit.”

Trudeau has seized the moment. Lebouthillier’s task is to work with Canada’s [85,000 charities](#) to unlock the potential of an army of willing volunteers and donors.

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

5 facts about water

By [Phillippa Lysaght](#) a WASH Communications

Specialist in Public Advocacy, Division of Communication, UNICEF: 20 January 2016

Water. Water is the source of life for all humans and our planet. Without water, we would simply not exist. Access to water is the most basic and fundamental of human rights, and it is under threat.

The World Economic Forum’s Global Risk Report was just released and it ranks water as one of the top three issues of global concern among problems that impact large populations, span borders and spread through industries. The water crisis has always been a major global threat, and this year it has shifted from “environmental risk” to a “social risk”.

We all know the importance of water for the survival and development of both people and the planet, but we often don’t know the exact numbers, or the real severity of this crisis. Here are five facts to help you get your head around one of the world’s most pressing issues:

- **663 million** people still do not have access to improved drinking water, meaning a water source protected from contamination.
- **530 million** children live in areas with extremely high risks of flooding – the vast majority of them in Asia.
 - Floods put the survival and growth of children at risk through immediate threats such as drowning, displacement and separation from family.
 - Floods compromise safe water supplies, increasing the risk of diarrhea outbreaks.
 - Floods damage sanitation facilities, which can cause contamination of water supply.
- **800 children** under five years of age die every day from diarrhea due to lack of safe water, sanitation and basic hygiene.
- **160 million** children live in areas at extreme risk of drought.
 - Droughts have multiple effects, especially on poor families and communities – as crops fail, livestock die and income drops, leading to food insecurity and rising food prices. Children are the most vulnerable to these effects and often suffer under nutrition and a range of other diseases as a result.
- **3-5 days** is the average amount of time a human can survive with a complete lack of water.

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These figures are alarming, but work is underway around the world to provide better access to improved drinking water for all. In 2014, UNICEF provided 14 million people with improved drinking water sources and more than 11 million with improved sanitation. In times of crisis, UNICEF's emergency responses benefited 18 million people with drinking water and over 4 million with sanitation efforts – that's equal to reaching more than the populations of London, New York City and Paris.

These achievements demonstrate that change is possible, and that universal access is within reach. As we continue our work in 2016, we remain dedicated to reaching the most vulnerable children first – making progress towards achieving universal access to water and sanitation for all.

New Pipeline Rules Deliver a Reality Check for Environmental Assessment

By: Sierra Club Foundation Canada/Jan. 28, 2016

“Due to financial restraint, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off until further notice.”

More than 30 years ago, on a hand-printed sign in a back corridor at the National Research Council in Ottawa, that message captured the sense of desperation brought on by an earlier generation of federal cutbacks.

The light may have flickered back on yesterday, when Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna and Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr announced five new principles to guide federal decisions on two controversial energy megaprojects, Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion and TransCanada's Energy East pipeline.

The Feds Step Up

Some of the details are still hazy. But so far, the five principles read like a solid first step to restore Canadians' confidence in a badly broken environmental assessment process. Here they are, direct from the [Natural Resources Canada website](#):

- 1 No project proponent will be asked to return to the starting line—project reviews will continue within the current legislative framework and in accordance with treaty provisions, under the auspices of relevant responsible authorities and Northern regulatory boards;
- 2 Decisions will be based on science, traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples, and other relevant evidence;
- 3 The views of the public and affected communities will be sought and considered;

Working With What They've Got

In so many ways, this announcement shows the new federal government making the best of a bad situation, using the very limited tools at their disposal.

After Canada's environmental assessment regulations were dismantled in 2012, the National Energy Board summarily decided to exclude consideration of greenhouse gas emissions from its assessments of major pipeline projects.

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Book Recommendations



Children of the Broken Treaty: Canada's Lost Promise and One Girl's Story

By Charlie Angus ©Aug. 2015

Children of the Broken Treaty exposes a system of apartheid in Canada that led to the largest youth-driven human rights movement in the country's history. The movement was inspired by Shannen Koostachin, a young Cree woman whom George Stroumboulopoulos named as one of “five teenage girls who kicked ass in history.”

All Shannen wanted was a decent education. She found an ally in Charlie Angus, who had no idea she was going to change his life and inspire others to change the country.

Based on extensive documentation assembled from Freedom of Information requests, Angus establishes a dark, unbroken line that extends from the policies of John A. Macdonald to the government of today. He provides chilling insight into how Canada--through breaches of treaties, broken promises, and callous neglect--deliberately denied First Nations children their basic human rights.

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.

The reason I can't follow the old eye-for-an-eye philosophy is that it ends up leaving everyone blind. Somebody must have sense and somebody must have religion. I remember some years ago, my brother and I were driving from Atlanta to Chattanooga, Tennessee. And for some reason the drivers that night were very discourteous or they were forgetting to dim their lights...And finally A.D. looked over at me and he said, 'I'm tired of this now, and the next car that comes by here and refuses to dim the lights, I'm going to refuse to dim mine.' I said, 'Wait a minute, don't do that. Somebody has to have some sense on this highway.' And I'm saying the same thing for us here in Birmingham. We are moving up a mighty highway toward the city of Freedom. There will be meandering points. There will be curves and difficult moments, and we will be tempted to retaliate with the same kind of force that the opposition will use. But I'm going to say to you 'Wait a minute, Birmingham. Somebody's got to have some sense in Birmingham.'

Martin Luther King, Jr., 3 May 1963

(From Page 3) **New Pipeline Rules**

The NEB panel reviewing the Trans Mountain project isn't even allowing cross-examination of Kinder Morgan's submissions or testimony. That decision makes evidence in the hearings essentially useless according to Green Party leader Elizabeth May, a lawyer and former Sierra Club executive director who first intervened before the NEB in the early 1980s.

But as May pointed out yesterday, McKenna and Carr would have triggered a torrent of lawsuits if they'd forced the Trans Mountain and Energy East hearings back to the starting gate. Gathering more robust data to inform their own future decisions on the two pipeline proposals is the best they can do—after a previous government took decision-making authority away from the NEB and handed it to the federal Cabinet.

An Important Reality Check

Even if Wednesday's announcement is imperfect, the five review principles are an important reality check for pipelines and other energy megaprojects. As we said in a news release we issued this morning:

"Canada's environmental assessment processes are badly broken. By setting out broad expectations that resource projects will have to meet, the government has begun the process of earning public and stakeholder confidence in the process.

It's tremendously important that the government is returning to its past practice of including greenhouse gas emissions in its assessment of major energy proposals like the Energy East pipeline and the Trans Mountain expansion. But it isn't yet clear what criteria Cabinet will use to determine the acceptable level of emissions from each project. We're hoping Minister McKenna answered that question in Paris last month, when she committed Canada to a long-term goal of limiting average global warming to 1.5°C.

Getting clarity on what is and is not acceptable in hydrocarbon development in Canada is also the first step in diversifying the country's resource economy and ensuring a fair, smooth transition for people who work in the fossil fuel industries. Clean energy already produced more direct employment in Canada than the tar sands, even before falling oil prices set off layoffs in the Alberta oil patch. Canadian workers and small businesses deserve better, and we look forward to seeing the federal government tap the huge potential for stable, steady clean energy jobs across the country."

From yesterday's announcement, there may actually be a light at the end of the tunnel for Canada's environmental assessment processes. Time will tell, but yesterday's announcement was a courageous and noteworthy first step.

Sincerely,
Diane Beckett
Interim Executive Director
Sierra Club Canada Foundation

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.

I, the Poet

I, the poet,
like every prophet in his land,
will be stoned

If I'm offered a crown
or offered gold,
if nails are hammered through my wrists
to deny the message I received,
forsake the song
or kill the word
- as long as those who read me ... read -
from the tip of my pen
poetry
shall bleed

Ehab Lotayef
January 14, 2016

for **Ashraf Fayadh**, the Palestinian poet who is on death row in Saudi Arabia:
<http://mondoweiss.net/2016/01/palestinian-scheduled-execution> Writers, poets and institutions held events all over the world on January 14th in solidarity with Fayadh. I read my poem in the Montreal PEN-Quebec event.

Acknowledgement: My poem is a loose translation of **Soheir Fouzat's** Arabic poem "While Ink", also dedicated to Ashraf Fayadh. An excerpt of Fouzat's original Arabic appears below and her full original Arabic poem can be found here:
<http://www.ahewar.org/debat/show.art.asp?aid=499257>



Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs.
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Go to the Government of Canada website for emails of
all MPs, Ministers at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>