



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 meetings suspended until at least 3 commit to attend regularly. For info call 250 442 0434.

To Do

Plan for **Hiroshima Day on August 6th in Castlegar:** call the USCC office at 250 442 8252 for details.

Join us for Nagasaki Day on August 9th @ 6:30 pm in City Park in Grand Forks. Watch for posters or call Laura at 250 442 0434 or send an email to L4peace@telus.net for info.



New survey reveals how mainstream society views Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

Toronto, ON – June 8, 2016. A new national survey reveals what non-Aboriginal Canadians know and think about Aboriginal Peoples in Canada today.

The results show that an increasing majority of non-Aboriginal Canadians recognize at some level the historic disparities and current challenges facing Aboriginal Peoples in this country. And this understanding underlies widespread public support for the principle of reconciliation and for taking actions to find meaningful solutions.

The survey was conducted by the non-profit Environics Institute for Survey Research, in partnership with seven leading Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations. In some areas the survey updates findings from previous Environics surveys conducted over the past decade to provide the basis for identifying how opinions have changed over time.

"There is much in this survey to cause optimism about achieving reconciliation, particularly as it pertains to closing the socio-economic gap between Indigenous peoples and other Canadians", comments Stephen Kakfwi, President and CEO of Canadians for a New Partnership. "But the results also underscore the importance of continued public education on the history of relations with the Indigenous peoples."

Key findings from the survey include the following:

- Most non-Aboriginal Canadians believe Aboriginal history and culture are a defining characteristic of what makes the country unique, but less so than such icons as multiculturalism, health care and the land. And they are divided on whether Aboriginal peoples have unique rights and privileges as first inhabitants of this land, or are just like other cultural

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(From last column) **Aboriginal Peoples** and ethnic groups in society.

- An increasing majority believe Aboriginal peoples experience discrimination today on a regular basis, comparable to, if not worse than, other marginalized communities in Canada such as Muslims and Black people. Many believe they also experience systemic discrimination at the institutional level, especially in the education and criminal justice systems.
- Two thirds (66%) of non-Aboriginal Canadians have heard or read about Indian residential schools (up noticeably from 2008), and an increasing majority (73%) believe the current challenges facing Aboriginal peoples today are to some extent the result of residential schools experience. By comparison, just over four in ten (42%) have heard or read something about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and few in this group can recall any of the specific Calls to Action issued by the Commission.
- There is solid majority public support for several policies related to Aboriginal rights and reconciliation, including increased funding for Aboriginal education to match provincial levels (91%), increased funding for clean drinking water and adequate housing on reserves (90%), mandatory curriculum in all schools to teach Aboriginal history and culture (87%), funding to protect Aboriginal languages (78%), providing Aboriginal communities with full control over their natural

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(From page 1) **Aboriginal Peoples**

resources on traditional territories (66%) and settling all outstanding land claims regardless of cost (60%).

- Non-Aboriginal Canadians endorse new measures to strengthen Aboriginal representation in the federal government, including guaranteed seats in the federal cabinet and at First Ministers meetings, as well a new Aboriginal Parliamentary committee to review all new laws from an Aboriginal perspective.

“Reconciliation as defined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is about the establishment and maintenance of respectful relationships” says Ry Moran, Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. “Surveys such as this point to the gains we have made and the work still to be accomplished.”

“One year after the TRC report and Canadians are clearly ready for change”, concluded Wanda Brascoupe Peters on behalf of the Circle for Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. “The single most important finding of this survey is that eight in ten Canadians are open to and wanting to learn more. This is a clarion call for all of us to engage in and act for reconciliation. We are proud of the increasing role played by the philanthropic sector in collaboration with Indigenous peoples and will continue to strengthen and deepen this work.”

“This survey gives us an accurate picture of mainstream knowledge and opinions about Aboriginal Peoples which is essential for knowing where we stand as a society and where we need to go,” comments Keith Neuman, lead researcher on the project. “Without such evidence we are at the mercy of anecdote and stereotype.”

The survey is based on interviews conducted by telephone with a representative sample of non-Aboriginal Canadians aged 18 years and older, between January 15 and February 8, 2016. The margin of sampling error for a survey of this size drawn from the population is plus or minus 2.2 percent (in 19 out of 20 samples). About 40 percent of the interviews were conducted via respondents’ cell phones.

(Ed note) List of survey contributors and contact info:

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Women of the world need your support to sail for Palestine

The people of Palestine – both Gaza and the West Bank, arbitrarily split by Israeli separation policies which are illegal in international law – suffer daily abuse, deprivation and oppression. The United Nations, as well as major aid agencies such as Oxfam, provide testimony that Gaza has not been able to recover from the last Israeli assault of 2014. 75,000 people cannot return to their ruined homes and 80% of the population relies on international humanitarian aid just to survive.

Women are in the front line - literally. They are the ones trying to keep their homes and families together among their ruined houses. They are the ones trying to guide and protect their traumatized children living in a war zone. They are the ones suffering, but they are also the ones leading.

Take for example Palestinian journalist Ameera Harouda, who runs towards the sounds of bombs because “I want to be there first because these stories should be told”.

Recognizing the vital role of women in Gaza, the Canadian Boat to Gaza campaign is participating in the Freedom Flotilla Coalition campaign to send an All-Women’s boat to support women in Gaza and to challenge the illegal Israeli blockade. Committed women in public life around the world have volunteered to sail with the Women’s Boat to Gaza.

U.S. playwright Naomi Wallace describes her participation: “The collective venture of the Women's Boat to Gaza is an act of defiance against the criminal incarceration of and frequent acts of war against an entire population, the majority of whom are children. It is also an intervention to highlight decades of astonishingly creative resistance by Palestinian women against Israel's illegal occupation.” She adds: “Why will I be on the boat? I am a playwright. It's both my duty and inspiration to engage with and expose systems that diminish us, like occupation, racism and brutality.”

Irish Nobel Prize Laureate Mairead Maquire says “I am sailing on the Women's Boat to Gaza because I love my Palestinian brothers and sisters and I want to stand with them in all our struggle for Palestinian freedom and rights.” Also on board will be Members of Parliament, other eminent women and activists from over a dozen countries.

These women need our financial support to sail for Gaza. They are donating their time, courage and energy, but need financial donations to buy and equip the boats and provide the other support this campaign needs.

<http://canadaboatgaza.org/donate/>

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You, too, can get on board this vitally important initiative and show your commitment to Palestinian women of Gaza and those who would support them by donating to this campaign and helping to spread the word to your friends, family colleagues and other contacts.

Each one of the women sailing on the boats carries with her the support you provide.

Get on board this campaign and help the women of Gaza and the women's boat to Gaza.

Follow us and to get involved at:

www.canadaboatgaza.org and womensboattogaza.org

www.facebook.com/FreedomFlotillaCoalition and

www.facebook.com/CanadaBoatGaza

Twitter @GazaFFlotilla @CanadaBoatGaza

In Solidarity,

Canadian Boat to Gaza Team

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) will sail until the Israeli blockade of Gaza is permanently and fully lifted

In September, Cigdem Topcuoglu, whose husband was killed by Israel aboard the Mavi Marmara in 2010, will be sailing with women from all over the world on the Freedom Flotilla Coalition's latest mission, the Women's Boat to Gaza (WBG). Ms. Topcuoglu's action symbolizes FFC's position regarding the Israeli blockade of Gaza. It must be fully and unconditionally lifted.

The Gaza Strip is the largest open air prison in the world. More than 1.8M persons have been living under an inhuman and illegal Israeli blockade since 2007. The blockade is killing Gaza. Five UN special rapporteurs found that the blockade of Gaza is illegal collective punishment.

MK Haneen Zoabi, who participated in the 2010 on board the Mavi Marmara, said that the reconciliation agreement between the two countries is a clear "admission of murder" by Israel. Ms. Zoabi called for more flotillas in order to remove "the criminal siege on Gaza".

Laura Arau, an organizer with the FFC and herself a Mavi Marmara passenger said, "Keep in mind that the FFC is not affiliated with any government or political party," and made a call to civil society: "Nothing can justify the suffering of the families of the activists who were murdered on board the Mavi Marmara in 2010 nor the daily violations of the human rights in Palestine. We, people of the world, must take action when our governments remain silent and are complicit in war crimes."

Huseyin Oruc of IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation and also an organizer with the FFC said "All the participants,

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Book Recommendations



Witness in Palestine: A Jewish Woman in the Occupied Territories

By Anna Baltzer © Jan 20 2008

Anna Baltzer, a young Jewish American, went to the West Bank to discover the realities of daily life for Palestinians under the occupation. What she found would change her outlook on the conflict forever. She wrote this book to give voice to the stories of the people who welcomed her with open arms as their lives crumbled around them. For five months, Baltzer lived and worked with farmers, Palestinian and Israeli activists, and the families of political prisoners, traveling with them across endless checkpoints and roadblocks to reach hospitals, universities, and olive groves. Baltzer witnessed firsthand the environmental devastation brought on by expanding settlements and outposts and the destruction wrought by Israel's "Security Fence," which separates many families from each other, their communities, their land, and basic human services. What emerges from Baltzer's journal is not a sensationalist tale of suicide bombers and conspiracies, but a compelling and inspiring description of the trials of daily life under the occupation.

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 contend that non-violent acts exert pressure far more effective than violent acts, for the pressure comes from goodwill and gentleness.

Mahatma Gandhi, 26 December 1924

Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without."

Gautama Buddha

War is over ... If you want it."

John Lennon

(From page 3) **blockade of Gaza**

all the families, all the members of Mavi Marmara are saying we are not looking for apologies, we are not looking for compensation. Our main purpose for going to Gaza was to end the blockade. If the agreement does not have this, it is unacceptable."

In mid September the Women's Boat to Gaza will sail with the same goal which is to break the illegal and inhumane blockade of Gaza. The Freedom Flotilla will continue until the port of Gaza is open, and Palestinians of Gaza have the ability to fish, to import and export freely, and to lead a normal life without daily fear and suffering. Norwegian participant Gerd von der Lippe asserts that "the Freedom Flotilla will continue to sail until the illegal and inhumane blockade of Gaza is permanently lifted."

In Canada, for more information contact Wendy Goldsmith at 519-281-3978

***Ed note:** for those in the Okanagan/Boundary/Kootenay region wishing to **donate** towards this historic trip contact Laura at 250 442 0434 or by email **L4peace@telus.net** to contribute to the fund begun June 26th in Castlegar will run until **July 12th** when it will sent to the Canadian Boat to Gaza fund.*

At Oslo I suggested that the philosophy and strategy of non-violence becomes immediately a subject for study and serious experimentation in every field of human conflict, including relations between nations. This was not, I believe, an unrealistic suggestion. World peace through non-violent means is neither absurd nor unattainable. All other methods have failed. Thus we must begin anew. Non-violence is a good starting point. Those of us who believe in this method can be voices of reason, sanity and understanding amid the voices of violence, hatred and emotion. We can very well set a mood of peace out of which a system of peace can be built. Racial injustice around the world. Poverty. War. When man solves these three great problems he will have squared his moral progress with his scientific progress. And more importantly, he will have learned the practical art of living in harmony.

Martin Luther King, Jr., "DREAMS OF BRIGHTER TOMORROWS" (March 1965)

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.

The Message

Silence, they say, is the voice of complicity.
But silence is impossible.

Silence screams.

Silence is a message,

Just as doing nothing is an act.

Let who you are ring out and resonate,

In every word and every deed.

Yes, become who you are.

There's no sidestepping your own being,

Or your own responsibility.

What you do is who you are.

You are your own comeuppance,

You become your own message.

You are the message.

Leonard Peltier

(Prison Writings: My Life is My Sun Dance
published by St. Martins Press 1999)

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction.

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Loving Your Enemies," in Strength to Love

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>**