



A Great October Weekend

By: Laura Savinkoff (from Feb. Issue)

When Mark and I got back home Amber and Hannah, who had an adventure attempting to find the Inn deep in conversation. We joined them and discussion erupted into enlightening topics. And guess what, we stayed up much too late but looking forward to Saturday's conference.

Arising a bit later than we should, we scrambled to get coffee and breakfast and set up for the meeting before the participants arrived. We did it. The information was set out, the chairs arranged, and the registration table ready along with handmade nametags so beautifully created by Amber. I had printed out all the documents needed for discussion—the agenda, the activity reports from some groups, the Constitution and other information needed to decide on whether to join the Canadian Peace Congress, the proposed resolutions—it was a pretty tall stack of paper that hopefully most would have read already since I did send it out a week before. But there are always new comers, which is great and then there are those who don't read the materials provided (which is really quite common, even in the corporate and government world). But it is also helpful to have a written copy in front of you during discussion of important issues which may require amendments and decisions. This time was no different.

I will not go into the whole meeting process but suffice it to say that discussion was intense and passionate as well as inspiring. As usual the host community/group provides the facilitator/s and note taker and so we began with quick introductions, followed by activity reports of member groups and those who provided written reports saved valuable time since it was only necessary for quick updates or to answer questions.

So now it was time to get to the business part of our conference. Don explained the mandate and basic policies of the Canadian Peace Congress (CPC) with whom we were considering to align ourselves. The CPC came into being in 1949 as an affiliate of the World Peace Council, also created in 1949. Some had questions that Don ably addressed. Personally I have worked with the CPC since 2002 because they were/are

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a founding member in 1986 of the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA). Although we decided to sever our relationship with the CPA some of us did keep up with the work of the CPC. We decided to join the CPC and that then led into a discussion of who would be the liaison/representative to the organization and who would forward our application for membership. Don said he'd send a letter of introduction so to speak, but was not able to be the liaison. We decided to come back to this issue later.

For the last 10 years or so I have taken on the role of Coordinator by default. It seemed the natural thing to do as the official representative to the CPA. But since we're no longer in need of that representative, the position I feel needs to be clarified and officially designated because I won't be able to do this forever; at some point I will have to step back. After some discussion and debate we decided to have two co-coordinators hopefully gender balanced. This then led to appointing/electing these two people. I am willing to go on, I said, and many expressed relief since the list of duties that I have been engaged in and asked to itemized appeared to be very daunting. So, at this point I am an official coordinator with Don volunteering, for now, as my assistant, not officially a coordinator. We will need to flush this out a bit more at our next conference I accepted the position to be the liaison, with Don's assistance, to the CPC as well. And this then led into a discussion of financial aid to the coordinator. When we had an official rep to the CPA each region provided \$100 annually as well as \$25 for membership dues, to cover expenses incurred by the representative. Since the dissolving of that structure there has been no financial aid for any work done on behalf of the BCSIPC, including the cost of printing materials for the conferences. So, now we have voted to set up a bank account specific to the BCSIPC with each member group providing \$100 per year, not regions, groups (to date not one group has come forward with any funds). I was tasked with setting up the account since I am the coordinator with Don providing seed monies. (Continued page 2)



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The bank account has been set up as a sub account of the Boundary Peace Initiative because the BCSIPC does not have any official standing but the BPI already has an account and a semi-formal structure. Donations are always welcome whether for the BCSIPC or the BPI or both.

Wow, that was an intense session and much was done in a little over an hour so we decided to take a much deserved break before we continued into our policy discussions. We reconvened to discuss the Canadian militarization of the budget; Canadian-Saudi arms deals and nuclear disarmament.

Out of these intensely serious discussions came motions that needed to be turned into Resolutions (these will be in the BPI Newsletter). Sadly, we had not appointed a Resolutions committee so the note taker had a hard time keeping up with suggestions and amendments proffered by everyone. Discussion is great but it is hard for one person to keep up and that is why we will need a few people to volunteer for a Resolutions Committee at every conference. Actually in most organizations there is a deadline for receiving motions so members are prepared for discussion and voting. It is very hard, if not impossible, for 20 people to write motions. In the end a few of us took on the task and then circulating them among all the attendees for input. This is also cumbersome and time consuming. The reason for Resolutions Committee is to work out the amendments and then circulate the final suggested wording rather than a large group trying to write a concise document versed in Parliamentary language. We did it but it took too much time to finalize and that then impacts on the reception from the entities to whom we send these *supposedly* vital resolutions: how vital is the cause/the issue when it takes more than a two weeks to send out. So, my suggestion is that all motions, other than those which cannot be foreseen, be provided at least a week prior to the conference and that a committee be established at the very beginning of the meeting so they know to take notes for amending resolutions and the work to finalize the documents is easier to complete, with consultation via email with deadlines so they can be sent within 2 weeks maximum. Not many like this job. I've served on many Resolution Committees and have learnt a thing or two on the structure and most efficient methods to complete the job.

And now it was lunch. And what a lunch was prepared by the Kelowna Peace Group. A great variety of veggie dishes to replenish our bodies. Much discussion on many topics of interest buzzed around the rooms and even spilled over into the beautiful yard. Just over the fence families gathered to choose pumpkins for Halloween and the chatter let us know that the reason we do what we do is so that families such as these, can go out and choose a pumpkin for an event that is just for fun. So many around the world can't do that! (More next issue)

Global Disarmament and Ban on Nuclear Weapons

Whereas the danger of the use of nuclear weapons has increased, not diminished

And Whereas the Dooms Day Clock stands at 3 minutes to midnight due to ongoing global conflicts that continue to escalate

And Whereas some of the nuclear weapon states are in the process of enhancing and modernizing their nuclear weapon stockpiles

And Whereas the nuclear weapons on hair trigger alert remain ready to be fired within minutes

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And Whereas the Government of Canada, which does not have nuclear weapons, was one of the 38 voting against the Banning of Nuclear Weapons and convening of a Disarmament Conference

Therefore Be It Resolved the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition demands that the Government of Canada change its vote in favor of the Ban of Nuclear Weapons

And Be It Further Resolved that the Government of Canada participate in the Disarmament Conference of 2017 fully prepared to support and endorse and act on the Ban of all Nuclear Weapons

Be It Further Resolved that the Government of Canada encourages the other nations that voted against or abstained from the Ban to support and participate in the 2017 Disarmament Conference

And Be It Further Resolved that the Government of Canada participates in the implementation of all the structures required to implement and monitor the Ban of Nuclear Weapons, including contributing to the funding of such a body.

Passed unanimously at the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference October 22, 2016.

Peace, to have meaning for many who have only known suffering in both peace and war, must be translated into bread, rice, shelter, health and education, as well as freedom and human dignity.

Ralph Bunche

Re-direct Military Funding to Social Programs

Whereas the sales of weapons and military equipment by the Government of Canada to other nations are on the rise

And Whereas the Government of Canada sells this military equipment to countries such as Saudi Arabia who continually violate the human rights of their own citizens as well as in other nations such as Yemen

And Whereas the Canadian Government is once again looking at participating in the Ballistic Missile Defence program proposed by the United States of America

And Whereas the Government of Canada is still looking into the purchase of the F-35 Stealth Bomber, which is only useful in war and fully integrated with the United States military

And Whereas the military budget provides for further incursions into our schools from K-12, colleges, universities and many other youth-oriented venues for the purpose of recruitment

And Whereas we see the encroachment of the military attitude and behavior into the police to where they are now a *force* rather than *peace officers*

And Whereas the fear of retribution for opposing the military industrial complex and/or government military policy is palpable in all sectors of Canadian society

And Whereas the Government of Canada continues its orientation towards war- making and domination rather than peacemaking and negotiating

And Whereas the discussions concerning the sensitive regions of the Arctic continues to prioritize military options rather than the sharing of the region for peaceful purposes

And Whereas a more militarized Canada becomes more dependent on jobs connected to the military, which have less economic value than non-military jobs

And Whereas the funding for social programs and human needs, including but not restricted to sustainable energy production, continues to decrease therefore escalating poverty, homelessness and hopelessness among Canadians

Therefore Be It Resolved that the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition demands that the Government of Canada refrain from purchasing military equipment that is only useable in war

And Be It Further Resolved the Government of Canada stops selling military equipment to any nation, for any purpose

And Be It Further Resolved the Government of Canada re-directs funds allocated to the Military to human needs and social programs that will bring all out of poverty, homelessness, hopelessness and engender the well-being of all Canadians, including our Indigenous peoples

And Be It Further Resolved the Government of Canada cease the encroachment into places of learning and knowledge (schools, colleges, universities, etc) of the Military for purposes of propaganda and recruitment

And Be It Further Resolved the Government of Canada fund social justice, education, culture, economic, and sustainable programs that are non-violent, respectful of all cultures and honors and protects our environment.

Passed unanimously at the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Conference October 22, 2016

Palestine/Israel

Whereas the Government of Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

And Whereas the Government of Canada is a member of the International Criminal Court

And Whereas Israel has and continues to contravene the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of the Child by its occupation of Palestine

And Whereas the continued blocking of land trade routes, border crossings and land travel for jobs, education and health care violates the human rights of Palestinians

And Whereas the intrusive Checkpoints throughout the occupied territories increase tensions and stress among and for the people of Palestine and the ability to cross into Israel or any other border country is dependent on the largess of the border guards is a violation of human rights.

And Whereas the blockade/siege of the ports of Gaza violate the human rights of the people of Gaza to access medical supplies, food and the means to make a living, namely fishing and trade

Therefore Be It Resolved that the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition (BCSIPC) strongly urges the Government of Canada to insist that Israel open the port of Gaza as well as the land borders to International Trade

And Be It Further Resolved the BCSIPC strongly urges the Government of Canada to work with the United Nations and other agencies to immediately begin ‘good faith ‘negotiations/dialogue to establish equitable statehood for both Palestine and Israel

And Be It Further Resolved that the Government of Canada takes appropriate measures to ensure the people of Palestine, especially Gaza, receive humanitarian aid required to rebuild their infrastructure that has repeatedly been bombed, bulldozed and destroyed by the State of Israel

And Be It Further Resolved that all children under the age of 16 be released from detention

And Be it Further Resolved that all Palestinians held under ‘indefinite detention’ be either released or formally charged and granted fair and unbiased trials.

Unanimously passed at the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference
Oct. 22, 2016

Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honor, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeace.20m.com

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet regularly monthly. For information call (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.



What's Up?

BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference: **April 8th from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm** at the **Slavonic Senior Citizens Center** on 72nd Ave in Grand Forks. We invite all to come to share ideas and concerns. Registration is **\$10 each** includes a Borscht lunch, all day snacks and beverages.



The Boundary Peace Initiative is *in a financial crunch*. We will organize fundraising events but that takes time and volunteers. In the meantime we do *need* a quick input of funds. We are always grateful for your generosity that makes it possible to bring you this newsletter and other projects. Thank you. To make a donation call Laura at 250-442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all the MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

Book Recommendations



A Global Security System: An Alternative to War.

By: World Beyond War Strategy Committee with input from the Coordinating Committee along with allies and those drawn from and cited in the book. Kent Shifferd-- lead author. Also involved-- Alice Slater, Bob Irwin, David Hartsough, Patrick Hiller, Paloma Ayala Vela, David Swanson, Joe Scarry.

It describes the “hardware” of creating a peace system, and the “software” — the values and concepts — necessary to *operate* a peace system and the means to *spread these globally*.

This report is based on the work of many experts in international relations and peace studies and on the experience of many activists. It is intended to be an evolving plan as we gain more and more experience. The historic end of war is now possible if we muster the will to act and so save ourselves and the planet from ever greater catastrophe. World Beyond War firmly believes that we can do this.

Available at your local bookstore or any online bookseller. The distributor is Ingram. The ISBN is 978-0983083085. Buy online at Amazon, or Barnes and Noble.

Ed Note: If you read a book or see a film you feel may be of interest to others, please submit it at L4peace@telus.net .

Rinse and Repeat

By: Wendy Newton Feb.4, 2017

the prisons of our minds
is where hatred and fear
reside
free your mind
free your soul
reach forward to your
neighbour
reach backward for your other
neighbour

breathe and smile
dance, sing, meditate
share whatever you have
laugh every day
EVERY DAY
rinse and repeat

The BPI welcomes your input. But articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-442-0434** or L4peace@telus.net.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and affiliate of Fellowship of Reconciliation. We also work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.