



### **Nuclear Disarmament**

*Richard Cannings' Speech on the NDP Opposition Day motion-- June 8, 2017*

Thank You Mr. Speaker and I'll be sharing at my time if there's any left at with the member from Alma Trans Kona.

Yesterday I listened to Sutzuko Thurlow, a Hiroshima survivor speak eloquently of what it was like to have her family, her neighbourhood, her city vaporized in an instant of mass destruction. I wish everyone in this House could have heard her very moving words. Sutzuko has devoted her life to advocating for nuclear disarmament to ensure that her experience would never be repeated again. She also reminded us of Canada's role in the bomb that destroyed her city: the uranium was mined at Great Bear Lake and refined at Fort Hope, Ontario.

Now when I was young the names Hiroshima and Nagasaki were relatively recent reminders of the horrors of nuclear warfare and in the climate of fear in the depths of the Cold War, people worked hard for nuclear disarmament and hoped against hope that this could never happen again. But ironically 60 years now after Hiroshima we are closer now to nuclear warfare than we were when I was growing up in the late 1950s and 1960s. And like many kids in that era I grew up with school air raid drills that taught us what to do when an atomic bomb was dropped on our town; Penticton, British Columbia population 10,000 at that time. I'm not sure why we thought we were a target but like schools across Canada, across North America and likely across much of the world our town had an air-raid siren and practice air drills. There was, I admit, a US Air Force Base not too far south of us and I remember that feeling of a big threat whenever I saw a B-52 flying overhead on route to airspace over Northern Canada and Alaska and there were B-52s overhead every day everyone laden with nuclear warheads. And yes some would say that it was that threat of mutually assured destruction that kept worldwide conflict at bay through the Cold War. But the risk to the planet was and remains incalculable. We came so close to nuclear disaster many times and not just during the Cuban Missile Crisis but other events brought on by sheer accident, human error and human folly. (Continued next column)

### **Nuclear Disarmament**

So you would think that the world would have come to its senses over the past 60 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but even now 25 years after the end of the Cold War there are more than 15,000 nuclear warheads in the world. Canadians have long recognized that the threat of nuclear proliferation and long called for nuclear disarmament. In 2010 the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion that called on the government to, among other things, address the progress of an opportunity for nuclear disarmament and endorsed the 2008 plan for nuclear disarmament of Ban Ki-Moon, then Secretary-General of the United Nations and to deploy a major diplomatic initiative to increase the rate of nuclear disarmament. And the Liberal Party of Canada just last year adopted a Resolution at the Winnipeg policy convention that urged the government, their Liberal government, to comply more fully both with its international treaty obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and play a proactive role in achieving a nuclear weapons free world and emulate the Ottawa process which led to the banning of land mines by convening an International conference to commence negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention that would ban nuclear weapons. And yet, the Government's action in the past year goes completely against that Resolution.

I'd like to back up and just talk briefly about the Ottawa Process in which Canada truly led the world to a ban on land mines. This was counted at its best on the world stage. It was difficult work but it was the right thing to do and I'm proud that Canada did the heavy-lifting and it was done without the main players on the stage. The United States was not there. And yet we went ahead because it was the right thing to do. And we need to do the same thing with nuclear disarmament.

Now, the International community, over a hundred and thirty countries are involved, are currently carrying out negotiations on the Convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, just as the Liberal (Continued page 2)



(From page 1) **Nuclear Disarmament**

Party resolution asked for. The problem is not only is that Canada is not leading this process but it's boycotting it completely. Canada is not back on the international scene; it's backing away from its traditional leadership role in promoting a more peaceful world. And Canada is backing away under pressure from the United States and other nuclear powers.

It's ironic that we are debating this point only two days after the Government proudly rolled out a shiny new foreign policy that tried to paint Canada as taking a path independent from the United States, when in this process we are meekly following the Trump administration. The Netherlands is the only NATO country standing up for sanity and taking a strong role in the negotiations. These negotiations for nuclear disarmament are still going on at the United Nations and Canada could join the process and take a real role in this important, on this essential project. Instead the government hides behind its actions on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty; now if successful this effort would stop the production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium, the basic elements of nuclear weapons. And while this is a laudable goal it will do nothing, and I mean, absolutely nothing, to bring about nuclear disarmament. It is not nuclear disarmament at all. As I said at the start, there are more than 15,000 nuclear warheads in the world and the nuclear powers have huge stockpiles of fissile materials. They don't need any more plutonium or highly enriched uranium to keep building more weapons for years to come more weapons that could incinerate the world several times over. The Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty will not stop that.

Now Canada is in a unique position to be a leader in nuclear disarmament and I want to point out here, Mr. Speaker that my riding has a long history of peace activism focused by the strong Doukhobor community with its dedication to peace and toil and the Mir Center for Peace that Selkirk College in Castlegar. And my predecessor in this place, Alex Atamanenko, tabled a motion asking the Government to create a Department of Peace. I have tabled that same motion here in this Parliament. This would create a Ministry responsible for promoting the nonviolent resolution of conflicts at home and abroad and would speak volumes to the high priority that Canadians place on a peaceful world.

Opponents to negotiating a Nuclear Ban Treaty say that disarmament must happen step-by-step and that the time is not right for these negotiations, the world is not secure enough for the treaty.

(Continued next column)

**Nuclear Disarmament**

Mr. Speaker, we have reached the edge of this cliff of step-by-step over the past 60 years. The world will never, ever be fully secured. We cannot wait for better conditions. We cannot afford to wait at all! And yes, the nuclear powers will always oppose nuclear disarmament but we not, must not, bow to their wishes and blindly take their viewpoint! We need to radically change the worldview of the nuclear powers. It will not be easy. It will not happen overnight. But we must be bold! We must live up to our convictions and our moral duty and work tirelessly for a nuclear weapons free world!

Thank you.

**World Beyond War**

*Mark Haley from Kelowna suggested this as a group to participate with.*

World Beyond War is a global nonviolent movement to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace.

We aim to create awareness of popular support for ending war and to further develop that support. We work to advance the idea of not just preventing any particular war but abolishing the entire institution.

We strive to replace a culture of war with one of peace in which nonviolent means of conflict resolution take the place of bloodshed.

For more information go to [www.worldbeyondwar.org](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)

No One Owns the Water,  
No One Owns the Lands,  
No One Owns the Sands,  
These Are Given By Our Mother,  
The Planet Provides For Free,  
Only By Hands of the Greedy,  
Does The Earth Require a Fee.

Poet Christopher

## Minutes: BCIPC Conference- April 8, 2017

(The list of participants is available and group written reports are available upon request)

Laura welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and expressed gratitude to the Slavonic Senior Citizens Society for renting the hall at a reasonable cost. She thanked the kitchen staff and all who donated food and volunteered in so many other ways to ensure a successful conference. She explained that introductions will entail only name and affiliation.

**Member Group Reports:** (not necessarily in order as presented but as listed in the agenda)

1. **Kelowna Peace Group** verbal report: In November we hosted an author talking about propaganda, media and environment. We are associated with Amnesty International and participate in the Film Nights throughout the year. The next film on April 29<sup>th</sup> is hosted by the Solidarity Movement about a Palestinian woman from Bethlehem presented by a local couple who has travelled to Israel/Palestine.
2. **KRUNA** supplied a document outlining their annual events and 2016 special events (attachment #1).
3. **USCC Working Groups for Peace and Justice**—same as KRUNA as well as with local peace, social justice and environmental groups
4. **KAIROS Nelson:** written report (attachment #2) with no inquiries. Sandra announced Earth Day 2017 adding that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of every month a gathering is hosted by various Kootenay faith and activist groups.
5. **Non-violent Peace Force:** Madelyn added a few items to the written report (attachment #3): 2 peace cafés were held. Money has been raised for International Students to attend Selkirk College Mir Center for Peace. Parfaite Ntahuba of Uganda, who attended the October 2015 BCSIPC conference in Nelson is returning May 5<sup>th</sup> for more training on diffusing Trauma and violence and Parfaite may be available to speak in the region.
6. **The Boundary Peace Initiative:** (attachment #4) a few updates. The deadline for the Freedom Flotilla and Canadian Boat to Gaza (report attachment # 5) logo to promote solidarity with Gaza Fishers globally has been extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Laura suggested all to access the Canadian Boat to Gaza website for further information. Laura responded to a question that to date there are about 10-15 Countries/campaigns involved. In addition the plan is to attempt to sail around the Mediterranean to encourage support and share information.

(Continued page 4)

## Dream!

Born in the days of ISIS  
Born in the age of Trump  
A time when rivers dry,  
a time when glaciers melt.

Shed a tear for the world  
Tread into it with hope  
Walk your path with love  
Stand up strong and proud.

Don't let it kill your dreams  
Dreams are what you are  
Chant to the morning sun  
Sing in the darkest night

A brighter world is possible!  
A better world is possible!

Born in the age of Francis  
Born in the days of Corbyn  
Born in the time of Sanders  
A better world is possible!

Fires, ruins, ashes,  
our road led to demise  
Cross this barren desert  
You are the phoenix:  
Rise!

By: Ehab Lotayef: June 9, 2017 (became a grandfather for the first time of two beautiful twin girls. This is for them and their generation.)

## 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](http://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](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).*

## What's Up?

**Hiroshima Day—August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
in Castlegar—details next  
issue.

**Nagasaki Day—August 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 pm in Gyro Park,**  
Grand Forks (across from  
Overwatea). In case of rain  
join us at the Slavonic Senior  
Citizens Center on 72<sup>nd</sup>  
Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

### A Few Quotes to Ponder

The Arc of the Moral  
Universe is long, but it bends  
Towards Justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

War is like a fire in the  
human community, one  
whose fuel is living beings.

Dalai Lama

We do not convert people to  
think our way by pouring  
bombs upon them, day after  
day and week after week.

John Diefenbaker on the  
Vietnam War (Canadian  
Prime Minister)

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>

Boundary Peace Initiative Newsletter—  
Page 4

## Book Recommendations



### WAR IS A LIE

By: David Swanson

**Second edition published by Just World Books**

War Is a Lie is a thorough refutation of every major argument used to justify wars, drawing on evidence from numerous past wars, with a focus on those that have been most widely defended as just and good. This is a handbook of sorts, an engaging, always informative manual that can be used to debunk future lies before the wars they're deployed to justify have any chance to begin. For this edition of the book, the original 2010 version has been updated and expanded with material on lessons from the United States' most recent wars, more pointers on what can be done to end war making, and an epilogue that analyzes new trends in war lying and in resistance to it. No one to whom you give this book can claim they haven't been warned!

### (From page 3) BCSIPC Minutes:

6. The BPI has launched an initiative entitled Earth Day 2017 People's Choice Awards where students will create a poster, to be displayed at the Public Library and the community will choose the top 3 favorite per class/category; hopefully it will grow to include more of the student population in Grand Forks and maybe even the Boundary. The three prizes per category this year will be a Family membership to the Boundary Museum, locally grown, spun and knit Alpaca wool toques by Shannon Watson, Melelauca personal care basket from Gina Morris and a children's book donated by Lizanne Eastwood. Rosemary Phillips offered to donate her book but Laura explained that we can keep Rosemary's donation in reserve for next year. Our Earth Day event will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to present the gifts to the kids, followed by a discussion on what we can do, as individuals and as a community to stop Climate Change facilitated by Graham Watts. No further questions or comments arose.
- 7 **Voice of Women:** Hannah gave a verbal report and promised to provide a written one for the minutes (attachment #6). Some highlights from her reports were: Canada is deeply involved in the Military. Fuel is being sent to Syria. VOW annually takes part in the White Poppy Campaign to raise awareness of the need for peaceful resolution. VOW continues to be involved in presentations and work at the United Nations. On International Women's' Week Hannah and Tamara Lorentz protested in Vancouver to share a letter regarding Canadian militarization with the public. Canada is steadily increasing its military spending becoming the 6th highest in NATO to the tune of \$23 billion in 2015 and an increase of \$5 billion to \$28 billion in 2016. Hannah provided a hard copy of the date on military spending along with a letter from the VOW to the Minister of Defence Sajjan (attachment # 7). Hannah asked if Richard has the data from the review and he said he'd send an email to Laura on what he does have (attachment #8). (More next issue)

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.