



# Turning Point

Physicians for Global Survival (Canada) Médecins pour la Survie Mondiale

## F-35 or ...?

F-35 stealth fighter jets will cost more than 16 billion dollars.

16 billion dollars...

- > *would build 80,000 homes for Canadians at \$200,000 each;*
- > *would feed 32 million African children for ten years;*
- > *would provide four years free post secondary education for 400,000 Canadians;*
- > *would provide \$365/month for every man, woman and child in poverty in Canada for one year.*

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# Turning Point



PHYSICIANS FOR GLOBAL SURVIVAL  
MÉDECINS POUR LA SURVIE MONDIALE  
CANADA

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All contributions over \$10 are tax-creditable. Any items for publications, such as articles, cartoons, photos or advertisements, should be submitted to the National Office for consideration (in English or French). Manuscripts should be relevant to the Mission Statement, but do not have to conform strictly to present PGS policy. They must be transmitted via e-mail to: pgsadmin@web.ca.  
Gov't Registration No: BN10784-2684-RR0001

*"Because of our concern for global health, we are committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of war, and the promotion of non-violent means of conflict resolution and social justice in a sustainable world."*

*"En raison de notre préoccupation pour la santé mondiale, nous sommes déterminés à faire interdire les armes nucléaires, à prévenir la guerre, à promouvoir des moyens pacifiques de résolution de conflit et à instaurer la justice sociale dans un monde viable."*

**Affiliate of / Filiale de:**  
**International Physicians**  
**for the Prevention of Nuclear War**



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## President's Letter

by Dr. Michael A. Dworkind



The focus of PGS has long been on the prevention of nuclear conflict and the abolition of nuclear weapons. But like many other IPPNW members, we have also taken a strong position on climate change, an urgent threat to human survival.

We are clearly and undeniably in an emergency. This is evidenced by many scientific studies on climate change. But this is tragically ignored (or worse, denied) by the carbon fuel corporations, whose

profit motivation puts our species in jeopardy. Many scientific bodies, including *The Lancet* and the Institute for Global Health, have suggested that climate change is the biggest global health threat of the century, resulting in the deaths of at least 150,000 people annually. These numbers will only escalate.

Shame on Canada's government for its regressive and repressive climate policies and for renegeing on global commitments made at Kyoto and Cancun! Continued tar sands expansion is slowly killing First Nations peoples downstream of the Athabasca River, where toxic heavy metal and arsenic runoff is collecting in the biosphere and destroying traditional ways of

## La lettre du Président

par Dr. Michael A. Dworkind

Il y a longtemps que MSM concentre son action sur la prévention de la guerre nucléaire et l'abolition des armes nucléaires. Mais comme de nombreux autres membres de l'IPPNW, nous nous sommes aussi prononcés avec vigueur sur l'imminente menace que constituent, pour la survie de l'humanité, les changements climatiques.

Il est maintenant prouvé que nous sommes en présence d'une situation d'urgence. De nombreuses études scientifiques sur le climat le prouvent. Pourtant, les entreprises qui exploitent les énergies carbonées ignorent (ou pire, nient) la réalité de l'urgence, et leur soif de profits menace la survie de notre espèce. De nombreuses entités

scientifiques, y compris la revue *The Lancet* et l'Institute for Global Health, considèrent qu'au 21<sup>e</sup> siècle, les changements climatiques constituent la plus grave menace pour la santé mondiale. On estime qu'ils sont responsables d'au moins 150 000 décès par an. Et ce nombre ne peut que croître.

Honte au gouvernement du Canada pour ses politiques climatiques rétrogrades et répressives, et pour avoir refusé de respecter les engagements mondiaux pris à Kyoto et à Cancun ! L'expansion débridée de l'exploitation des sables bitumineux tue à petit feu les populations autochtones vivant en aval de la rivière Athabasca où les rejets de métaux lourds et d'arsenic contaminent la biosphère et détruisent les modes de vie traditionnels. Les taux de

life. Cancer rates are of epidemic proportions and the impact on flora and fauna is devastating. All of this is denied by the industry, which advertises its deleterious practices on television as responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Today I wrote to Stephen Harper, stating that the tar sands are destroying the futures of our children and grandchildren. We must shift to conservation and renewable energy before it is too late. I urge you to take a minute and share your outrage with the decision makers. It is your duty – our duty – to protest the folly and injustice of Canada’s present energy/environment policies.

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cancer ont atteint des proportions épidémiques; la flore et la faune sont dévastés. Et l’industrie nie tout cela et ose prétendre, dans sa publicité télévisée, que ses pratiques délétères sont un modèle d’intendance responsable de nos ressources naturelles.

Aujourd’hui, j’ai écrit à Stephen Harper pour lui dire que les sables bitumineux sont en train de détruire l’avenir de nos enfants et de nos petits-enfants. Il nous faut faire un virage vers les économies d’énergie et les énergies renouvelables avant qu’il ne soit trop tard. Je vous invite à prendre le temps de signifier votre indignation aux décideurs. Il est de votre devoir - de notre devoir - de dénoncer l’injustice et l’absurdité des actuelles politiques énergétiques et environnementales canadiennes.

## Updates:

- **Radioactive Waste on the Great Lakes:** Bruce Power, of Canada, wants to send 100-ton generators to Sweden for recycling. On February 4, 2011, after a few days of hearings, during which most of the intervenors opposed the shipments, the Nuclear Safety Commission decided to issue a transport license, valid for one year. In light of the research presented to the hearings, this was egregious.

The outcry forced the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources to hold two days of public hearings on March 8 and 10, 2011 on the topic of radioactive waste shipments through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. We advise them to examine the material already presented, see what further information is needed, and invite the concerned informed public, not the partisan opinioned.

- **Order of Canada Project:** There are now 540 members of the Order of Canada who have signed a petition supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention. They come from all walks of life. If you know of a recipient who would support the petition, please get them in touch with us or Murray Thomson 613-224-8155 or mothom@sympatico.ca.

On February 9, 2011, PGS honoured the Order of Canada project for its success in leading to the passage of the motion supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention in the House of Commons on December 7, 2010. The Honourable Douglas Roche was “Skyped” in to encourage, inspire and provide hope for a future without nuclear weapons. Included in the celebrations were representatives of several peace groups – for example, Raging Grannies, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms, World Federalists, and the Inter-Church Energy Committee.

- **Mayors for Peace:** 49 new cities joined Mayors for Peace on February 1, 2011, bringing the total number of member cities to 4,515 worldwide. Mayors for Peace, along with Nihon Hidankyo ( Japan Confederation of A and H Bomb Sufferers Organization ) has been nominated for this year’s Nobel Peace Prize by Nobel Peace Laureate, Ms. Mairead Maguire.
- **IAEA, WHO and Chernobyl:** At a book-launching in Ottawa, Rauf Tariq, Head of the Verification and Security Policy Coordination, Vienna International Centre, utterly denied both the seniority conveyed by the reporting structure of the two agencies and the control exerted by the IAEA over radiation-health research to WHO. The pronouncements by WHO which illustrate the “precautionary principle” of 1956 and in 1958 are the last public statements made by the World Health Organization on concern about radiation and health. After 1959, it became “unconcerned”. This sounds like a topic for further research.

# F-35 Stealth Fighter-Bombers

Dr. John Bury M.B.B.S., M.R.C.O.G.,  
Member, Saskatoon Peace Coalition

On July 16th 2010, the Canadian Government announced that it intends to purchase 65 Lockheed Martin F-35 Stealth Fighter bombers to replace the country's aging fleet of CF-18s. The initial estimated cost is \$9 billion, and if forward maintenance is included, a total cost of \$16 billion is expected. At the present time, five versions of the F-35 are being designed and the cost has already escalated.

The decision was not publicly discussed or debated in Parliament, and the purchase will be made through a sole source contract with no competitive bidding. All of this is very surprising for the largest procurement of military equipment in Canadian history.

The story of the design of this aircraft goes back to the 1990s, when U.S. aerospace company Lockheed Martin recognized the cost of development would be prodigious and had the U.S. government persuade Australia, Turkey, Norway, Denmark and Canada to contribute \$4.375 billion dollars towards the programme. At that time no agreement to purchase was made by Canada. Since then, Norway has postponed its purchase of aircraft.

The purpose of the F-35s is to fill the two major roles of Canada's CF-18s, the first of which is the surveillance and control of Canadian and North American airspace through NORAD. In this role the F35's special capabilities, which were developed for air-to-air combat and precision bombing from high altitudes, are redundant and, due to their very special nature, must be based in limited, specially designed

air bases. Since terrorist attacks in civilian aircraft could occur anywhere along our long borders, a more appropriate option would be a fairly lowly equipped aircraft that could be based in several points across the country and could be quickly scrambled to shoot down an intruder if necessary.

The second major role of the Canadian fighters is an expeditionary one. As such, they would be involved in air-to-air combat with precision-guided munitions/bomb delivery. Not only would such a role be in coalition with our allies or at the call of the United Nations, but it also seems unlikely that any country against which we were engaged would possess the kind of highly advanced fighter aircraft or sophisticated detection capability that would justify the use of stealth aircraft. Even when we have been engaged in coalitions (such as in Afghanistan), our fighters have not been used for these purposes.

Unless Canada wishes to become an aggressive military nation, there is no justification for the purchase of these weapons. Rather, Canada should continue its procurement of more appropriate equipment, such as ice resistant vessels for guarding our maritime borders, light and heavy lift helicopters that can also be used in civilian disasters, and heavy transport planes to carry Peacekeeping forces to remote destinations.

Recently Russia announced plans for the development of a stealth fighter bomber, and China has just flown its prototype for such a plane. It would seem that by buying into the purchase of these aggressive and destructive weapons, Canada is participating in a new arms race.

As an alternative to this military spending, Canada could choose to

direct its resources to any number of urgent issues both at home and internationally. For example, Canada could immediately fulfill its promise to spend 0.75 % of our Gross Domestic Product on foreign aid. We could also invest in issues closer to home: a 2006 study by the Public Health Authority in Saskatoon found that the health status of residents in three inner city subdivisions was no better than could be expected in an impoverished third world country. Similar communities can be found in all our major cities, with inadequate income, food and housing being the causes of such disparities in health. One billion dollars could build between five and six thousand low income homes.

Yet another example is Canada's urgent need for a comprehensive programme directed against Obesity and Diabetes, on a scale much greater than any contemplated at the moment. Or, we could address the fact that a very large proportion of the world's population is still dying of treatable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and a whole range of tropical diseases.

Some of the world's major causes of conflict include the threat of unmet basic needs and the denial of basic rights. The denial of health to peoples in vast areas of the world is the worst fault of the western world—if we instead directed a few billion dollars of our country's military spending towards health and justice, a major source of conflict would be eliminated.

For more information on this issue:

*Pilot Error: Why the F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter is wrong for Canada*, by Steven Staples, [www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/pilot-error](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/pilot-error)

*Canadian defense policy framework*, by Ernie Regehr. The Ploughshares Monitor, Spring 2004, vol 25, no.1.

# Physician Activism: Doctors Lead Canada's Anti-Pesticide Movement

By Farrah Khan, Executive Assistant,  
Canadian Association of Physicians  
for the Environment

Twenty years ago, in the town of Hudson, QC, Canada's very first pesticide by-law was passed. The law was created to protect residents—and most importantly vulnerable populations such as children, expecting mothers and the elderly—from exposure to unnecessary pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) commonly used on lawns and gardens and in public parks. Pesticides are designed to kill, and in addition to threatening human health they also impact our ecosystems by destroying beneficial insects and plants; polluting rivers, streams and aquatic life; and contaminating our soil.

Unlike most eco-initiatives, the Hudson pesticide campaign was not spearheaded by environmental organizations, but was instead launched by a concerned dermatologist whose patients' health was being compromised by exposure to lawn chemicals. Firm in her belief that her patients were becoming sick from contact with pesticides, Dr. June Irwin fought tirelessly for six years before the Hudson pesticide by-law was finally passed in 1991.

Many physicians would not self-identify as environmentalists, let alone political activists, so what Dr. Irwin achieved in winning a Hudson pesticide ban was greater than protecting the town's residents and ecosystems. She also opened a door for doctors across the country to see themselves in a different light. In the case of the anti-pesticide movement in Canada, doctors are currently at the forefront of the effort to convince governments to protect human

health and the planet by banning the use and sale of these toxic substances.

Today, Canada has 168 municipal pesticide by-laws and four province-wide bans. In almost all of these cases physicians have, along with community groups and large health and environment charities, led the fight to share their scientific knowledge and inform decision-makers about the harmful effects of pesticides and the many safe alternatives that exist. This is illness prevention at its best.

Since the passing of the Hudson by-law, there has been additional research done in the area of pesticides and human health, which has helped to further the cause. A landmark study by the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) continues to play a significant role in the anti-pesticide saga. Released by the OCFP's Environmental Health Committee in 2004, the *College's Pesticides Literature Review* is a "comprehensive review of research on the effects of pesticides on human health." The review shows links between pesticides and serious illnesses such as brain cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, neurological illness, birth defects, fetal death, intrauterine growth retardation, and more.

The *Pesticides Literature Review* stresses that children are particularly susceptible to pesticides, and urges family physicians to focus on illness prevention and advocate for pesticide reduction. The study makes the issue of pesticides and human health easier to grasp for busy doctors and lawmakers, and is used by many physician-activists across Canada who are working to reduce pesticides as a public health measure.

Another key study was published in 2006, in the journal *Paediatrics & Child Health*. Entitled "Pesticide assessment: Protecting public health on the home turf," the study focuses attention on 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), which is the herbicide most commonly used to kill weeds in grass. The authors conclude, "The balance of epidemiological research suggests that 2,4-D can be persuasively linked to cancers, neurological impairment and reproductive problems." They go on to recommend, "Canada needs a stronger regulator for pesticides. Potentially toxic chemicals should not be registered when more benign solutions exist, risks are not clearly quantifiable or potential risks outweigh benefits." They also argue, "Physicians have a role in public education regarding pesticides."

The authors of both of the above-mentioned studies gave additional fodder to those advocating for pesticide bans. They provided a strong backing of scientific research to emphasize the necessity of outlawing these chemicals.

What we can learn from the pesticide issue is that when doctors join a political battle, it gives the cause more legitimacy. When doctors speak up, decision-makers listen. Physicians have clout and can use that power to advocate for illness prevention and the protection of public health on a large scale, not only with pesticides, but also with eliminating other toxins and threats to human health. It's important for this message to get out, and for all doctors to understand the extent of their influence, so that they can pursue their passions and uphold the Hippocratic oath as strong community advocates.

# Port Hope Will Not Disappear

By Dr. Helen Caldicott, Dr. Linda Harvey  
and Dr. Dale Dewar

The beautiful town of Port Hope, ON was introduced to the nuclear age nearly 80 years ago, when the LaBine brothers established a radium refinery on the shores of Lake Ontario. The refinery was closed at the beginning of World War II, but was reopened by the federal government as a war measure in 1943. During the war, the refinery was used to produce uranium for the first nuclear weapons made by the U.S., and its uranium continued to be exported to the U.S. for military purposes until 1957.

During its history, hundreds of thousands of tons of nuclear waste accrued at the factory site and were randomly dispersed throughout Port Hope's ravines and playing fields. The waste, which contained many carcinogenic elements, including uranium, radium, radon and polonium, was used as land fill and building materials in foundations for schools and other public buildings.

In 1975, Port Hope's St. Mary's School was promptly closed when it was discovered to be highly polluted with radon gas. As a result of the subsequent public outcry, the federal government excavated 200,000 tons of severely contaminated soil from 400 properties and exported it to Chalk River, ON. However, up to three and a half million cubic meters of waste still remain in huge radioactive dumps, under buildings, on the beach and in the harbour. Other towns were asked to take this material, but all declined. Current plans are to excavate it yet again and move it a short distance to a dump within town boundaries, above Lake Ontario and adjacent to Highway 401, Canada's busiest highway.

Meanwhile, the factory (now owned by Cameco) continues to tower over

the town, manufacturing uranium fuel rods for export, and emitting uranium hexafluoride gas and dust into the air and into Lake Ontario. Incredibly, adjacent to the factory stands the water treatment plant that supplies Port Hope's drinking water.

Contrary to statements provided by federal government agencies and the nuclear industry, according to the National Academy of Sciences' 2005 BEIR VII Report, no level of radiation is safe. It is cumulative, with each dose adding to the risk of cancer, and children are between 10 and 20 times more radiosensitive than adults. Fetuses are also extremely sensitive: one x-ray to the pregnant abdomen increases the incidence of leukemia in the infant by 40 per cent.

Uranium waste is radioactive for billions of years, decaying continually to 13 other radioactive elements ("daughters"), all of which can induce cancer or genetic diseases when entering the human body as internal emitters. Two of the most dangerous daughters are:

1. Radon gas, which seeps continuously from uranium-contaminated soil into houses, playing fields, schools, etc. When inhaled into the lungs, radon emits alpha particles that deliver high-level radiation to surrounding cells. This may induce cancer decades later.
2. Radium, an alpha emitter and uranium daughter whose toxicity lasts for 16,000 years and concentrates thousands of times in the food chain, including in fish, fruits and vegetables. It is absorbed from the gut, and, like calcium, deposits in bone where it can induce bone cancer or leukemia. Many uranium daughters also emit gamma radiation, which like x-rays can

induce cancer or cause genetic mutations in human sperm and eggs, to be transferred to future generations in the form of diseases such as diabetes, mental retardation or cystic fibrosis.

Scientific, long-term, peer-reviewed population and epidemiological studies of Port Hope have never been conducted, nor has the population ever been tested for radium or uranium excretion in urine. A number of partial studies do suggest an increased incidence of cancer including lung cancer in women, brain cancer in women and children, childhood leukemia, arterio-vascular disease in women, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, nasopharyngeal cancer and others.

When nuclear waste was first introduced to the community of Port Hope, neither genes nor DNA were fully understood. "Acceptable safe levels of exposure" were changed seven times, each time decreased until the BEIR VII Report. The World Health Organization recognized the potential risk in the 1950s, but was prevented from conducting or publicizing research into the human health effects of radiation by a 1959 agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Relevant research simply has not been done, and as such our generation is neglecting a potentially deadly threat to the human species.

Nuclear waste can be moved, but never remediated. And Port Hope will not disappear.

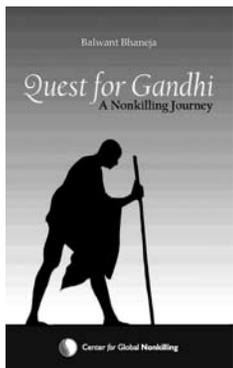
*On February 1, 2011, Dr. Helen Caldicott was joined on Parliament Hill by Dr. Linda Harvey and PGS Executive Director Dr. Dale Dewar to reiterate her call for the government to conduct a proper, peer-reviewed epidemiological study on the population of Port Hope, ON, site of the Cameco uranium processing facility.*

*An Opinion piece very similar to the foregoing appeared in the Ottawa Citizen, Tuesday, February 8, 2011.*

# We Recommend

## Quest for Gandhi: A Nonkilling Journey

by Balwant Bhaneja



At the southern tip of India, the small inlet of Kanyakumari brushes with the waters of Indian Ocean while Dehradun, capital of India's new state of Utranchal in

the North juts with the mountainous ranges of Himalayas.

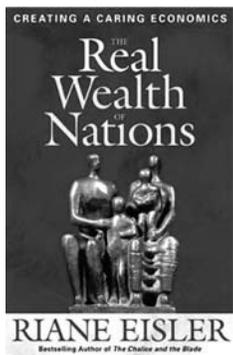
The book, a deep desire to understand the meaning and relevance of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's inclusive message of nonviolent political action in early 21st Century, is from Balwant Bhaneja's (a retired Canadian diplomat) travel journal about meetings in the spring of 2006 with individuals, young and old, across India who in their unique ways have been impacted by Gandhi's life and have

chosen to follow the nonviolent path for social justice and a nonkilling peace.

On the way to visit them the journey also becomes a pilgrimage to some of the places where Mahatma Gandhi stayed during the struggle for India's Independence from the British Rule. (Reprinted from CDPI Newsletter, January 2011)

Copies may be ordered: [www.lulu.com/product/13629370](http://www.lulu.com/product/13629370) or downloaded free at: [nonkilling.org/pdf/volume\\_gandhi.pdf](http://nonkilling.org/pdf/volume_gandhi.pdf)

## The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics



by Riane Eisler

Many people involved in studying peace and justice intuitively recognize that maldistribution of wealth factors into unrest.

Few study economics and even fewer propose alternate economic systems.

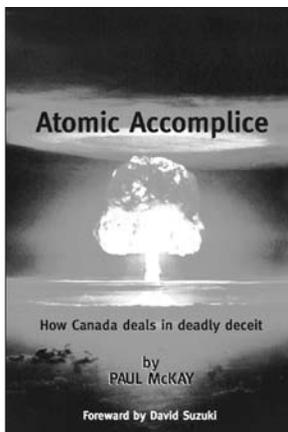
Conventional economics assumes that people and corporations belong to a "self-organizing dynamic that ultimately works for the common good." It doesn't take into account the creation of false needs through advertising or the globalization of the market.

Riane Eisler points out that the economy is not limited to market forces; it includes nature (environment), the illegal economy worth billions,

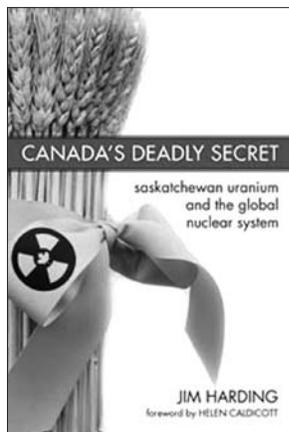
government, and the vast household and unpaid community economies – and also that these are not included in any of our markers of wealth. She says that a new "partnership" economy is essential for the new age. I found this an exciting read that transcends the dichotomy of capitalization vs socialism. (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2007, [www.bkconnection.com](http://www.bkconnection.com))

*Reviewed by Dale Dewar*

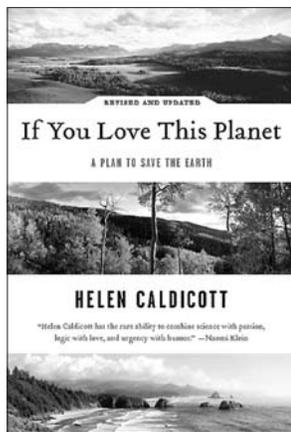
## More about Canada's Role in Nuclear Weapons



**Atomic Accomplice**  
Paul McKay



**Canada's Deadly Secret**  
Jim Harding



**If You Love This Planet**  
Helen Caldicott

## Welcome to the Board: Dr. Sharon Baker

To read Sharon's CV, you would think that she was born a social activist but she also graduated *cum laude* from Western Ontario Medical College in 1984. As a physician, she has taken on such diverse interests as wilderness medicine,



chronic pain and palliative care and outside of clinical medicine, she is certified in SCUBA and has taken Alternatives to Violence training. She lives close to London, Ontario with her husband and children.

# PUGWASH Statement: The new START Ratification

*Here then is the problem which we present to you. Stark and dreadful and inescapable: Shall we put an end to the human race; or shall mankind renounce war?*

**Russell-Einstein Manifesto**

*Because the knowledge of how to construct nuclear weapons cannot be erased from human memory, and because, in the extremity of war, nations that previously forswore them may race to produce them anew...*

**Hiroshima Declaration**

The US Senate's ratification on 22 December of the New START treaty is an important step toward greater international security and stability. It was a hard-fought battle to secure passage, and many talented people have worked tirelessly to secure its ratification despite determined domestic partisan obstructionism.

Despite what may have been unprecedented personal involvement in the process by Presidents Obama and Medvedev, the tone of the US debate and the nature of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee resolution might lead to some reaction in the Duma. We strongly urge a positive outcome.

People all over the world have been watching closely while what should have been a non-controversial treaty became mired in a mix of domestic US politicking and a revival of Cold War fear-mongering.

Concerns have been raised that the astronomical price paid in terms of further investment in the US weapons labs and the maintenance of the existing arsenal was too high. The intensely partisan nature of US politics has

dampened hopes for further progress.

Urgent steps must be taken to demonstrate solid and sustained leadership on reducing the salience and relevance of nuclear weapons. The US and Russia have a special responsibility, but other countries can play critical roles.

1. The UN Secretary General, the US, Russia and the UK should urgently and immediately work with Middle Eastern states to move forward plans for the proposed 2012 conference on a regional zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. (Concrete suggestions in this regard are the subject of a recent Pugwash report, available at [www.pugwash.org](http://www.pugwash.org)).
2. The US and its allies should use the opportunity of the NATO deterrence review to demonstrate decreased reliance on nuclear weapons. US nuclear weapons based in Europe should be withdrawn, setting a precedent that no nuclear weapons should be based on the territory of another country. This would include removal of US nuclear weapons from Turkey as the first step toward a Middle East Nuclear Weapons/WMD free zone.
3. Ironically, despite the billions of dollars to be invested in the US nuclear stockpile, it seems improbable that the Obama Administration could get through the new Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Other countries needed for Entry Into Force of the treaty should seriously consider ratifying the treaty as a way to provide support (and pressure) for US ratification.
4. The US and Russia should go back to the negotiating table, and begin to discuss further reductions, including in tactical nuclear weapons and in non-deployed strategic nuclear

weapons. This may well include the need for inter-related discussions on conventional forces (lessons learned well through negotiation of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty).

5. As a contribution to decreasing the role and the salience of nuclear weapons, countries at the regional or global level should consider agreements on no use (or no first use) of nuclear weapons. Other countries (and indeed NATO) should consider at least adopting declaratory language that guarantees countries will not be attacked with nuclear weapons if they themselves do not launch such an attack. It is a simple step, but symbolically very important.
6. Steps must be taken to move forward on a fissile material agreement, and all States should provide a positive contribution to these debates at the Conference on Disarmament and elsewhere.

President Obama raised hopes of a more far-reaching agenda than he seems likely to deliver. In April 2009 in Prague, he stated "clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons." He said we "must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, 'Yes, we can.'" We urge him to use those powers at his discretion and the platform he holds to fulfill that promise unequivocally.

Likewise, we urge all leaders around the world to help to create the conditions and dialogue needed to decrease and ultimately eliminate the nuclear dangers we face.

23 December 2010

Amb. Jayantha Dhanapala, President  
Prof. Paolo Cotta-Ramusino,  
Secretary General

*continued at right*

## Good News You Might Have Missed

- **Honourable Douglas Roche, Nobel Peace Prize Nominee:** Honourable Douglas Roche, OC, a former Canadian Disarmament Ambassador and Senator, has been nominated by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Doug is co-founder and former chair of the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) and of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PPND). He is an extremely important member of the Canadian Network for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (CNANW). With Murray Thomson, OC, and Dr. John Polanyi, Doug spear-headed the Order of Canada project for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. In 2009, PGS was proud to honour him with the Tom Perry Award for excellence in peace education.
- **Pearson Peace Medal:** On January 21, 2011, Ernie Regehr became the 26th laureate of the Pearson Peace Medal. In honour of Lester B. Pearson, each year the United Nations Association of Canada honours a Canadian who has made an exceptional personal contribution to the causes of international aid, mediation, equal rights, justice and peace. The Pearson Peace Medal was last awarded in 2004, when retired LGen Romeo Dallaire was honoured. The 2010 Medal was presented to Mr. Regehr by the Governor-General of Canada on January 21, 2011. (unac.org)
- **Pentagon Seeks Biggest Military Cuts Since Before 9/11:** On January 6, 2011, *The New York Times* reported that U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates had announced plans to cut the size of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, citing the country's "extreme fiscal duress" as the reason. This would mark a reversal of the growth in military spending in the U.S. since the events of September 11, 2001. (nytimes.com)
- **Canadian Parliament adopts resolution supporting Nuclear Weapons Convention:** On December 7, 2010, the House of Commons unanimously consented to adopt a motion submitted by NDP MP Bill Siksay, which supports initiatives for nuclear disarmament. The motion had previously received unanimous support in the Senate, following the publication of a letter endorsed by 536 recipients of the Order of Canada, urging Canada to support a Nuclear Weapons Convention. (ottawa.mcc.org and departmentofpeace.ca)
- **U.S. announces it will support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** On December 16, 2010, the U.S. officially endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, making it the last of four countries which had previously voted against the Declaration to reverse its position. The U.S. endorsement came only one month after Canada's official endorsement of the Declaration. According to the UN, "*the Declaration emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations.*" (indianlaw.org, un.org and fsin.com)
- **Old News but Still Good: Rich Germans Demand Higher Taxes:** On October 23, 2009, the BBC reported that a group of rich Germans had launched a petition calling for the government to make wealthy people pay higher taxes. "The group say they have more money than they need, and the extra revenue could fund economic and social programmes to aid Germany's economic recovery. Germany could raise 100bn euros (£91bn) if the richest people paid a 5% wealth tax for two years, they say." (news.bbc.uk)

### **PUGWASH** *continued from page 8*

*"The purpose of the Pugwash Conferences is to bring together, from around the world, influential scholars and public figures concerned with reducing the danger of armed conflict and seeking cooperative solutions for global problems. Meeting in private as individuals, rather than as representatives of governments*

*or institutions, Pugwash participants exchange views and explore alternative approaches to arms control and tension reduction with a combination of candor, continuity, and flexibility seldom attained in official East-West and North-South discussions and negotiations.*

*"The Pugwash Conferences take their name from the location of the first*

*meeting, which was held in 1957 in the village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada, birthplace of the American philanthropist Cyrus Eaton, who hosted the meeting. The stimulus for that gathering was the Russell-Einstein Manifesto issued in 1955.*

*"...there are now in the world over 3500 'Pugwashites'"*

From the Pugwash website.

## Upcoming events

- Anytime: Following a launch on January 27, 2011, **Medical Peace Work Online Courses**. European health groups have created seven freely available, interactive online courses in violence prevention and peacebuilding. The aim of the courses is to educate health professionals about the impact of war and other forms of violence on the health of individuals and populations, and to show how they can make a positive and particular contribution to peace building, violence prevention and conflict transformation. These courses are designed for those who want to strengthen their peace and conflict competencies; who intend to work for humanitarian, development, human rights, or medical peace organizations abroad or at home; and who want to improve health outcomes for their patients and communities in violence-prone settings. (www.medicalpeacework.org)
- March 8, 2011: **100th Anniversary of International Women's Day** (internationalwomensday.com)
- March 21, 2011: **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. Recognized by the UN. (un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday)
- March 22, 2011: **World Day for Water**. Recognized by the UN (worldwaterday.org)
- March 26, 2011: **Physicians for Global Survival Spring Conference**, St. Paul's University, Ottawa ON. The conference will cover peace, health, the environment and resources for dealing with change. A panel discussion on environmental pollution will occur the evening of Friday, March 25, featuring popular gardening specialist Ed Lawrence. Saturday evening features Dr. Helen Caldicott. (pgs.ca)
- April 7, 2011: **World Health Day**. Recognized by the UN. (who.int/world-health-day/en)
- April 8-10, 2011: **International IPPNW Public Congress**: "Chernobyl: 25 Year After—Stop the Nuclear Timebomb—Abandon Nuclear Power Now!" Berlin, Germany. Presented by the German affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Physicians for Social Responsibility in cooperation with the Society for Radiation Protection, the Physicians of Chernobyl, the Scientists Initiative for Peace and Sustainability and the Nuclear Free Future Award. The Congress will provide information on the effects of Chernobyl, analyze the risk potential of the nuclear chain, offer solutions for a world free from the nuclear threat and introduce possibilities for action. More information can be found at chernobylkongress.org.
- April 12, 2011: **Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Workshop**, Ottawa ON. An educational workshop for people already involved in policies and politics. Contact pgs.ca for more information.
- April 12, 2011: **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**. The Institute for Policy Studies and the International Peace Bureau will host a Global Day of Action on Military Spending. "Peace groups, budget priority activists, arms control advocates, and concerned citizens the world over will hold public demonstrations calling attention to the disparity between bountiful global investments in war-making and the worldwide neglect of social priorities." PGS will co-sponsor an invitational workshop in Ottawa on the same day. (demilitarize.org)
- April 22, 2011: **Earth Day** (earthday.ca) Sharon Skelly is asking for a gathering at the Owen Sound port to draw attention to the potential transport of Steam Generators on the Great Lakes.
- June 2-4, 2011: **Canadian Peace Research Association Annual Conference**, University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, Fredericton NB. The CPRA/ACRP conference will bring together peace and conflict resolution researchers, educators and activists from Canada and beyond. The conference is part of Congress 2011, which is organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and will explore the theme "Costs and Continents: Exploring peoples and places." (congress2011.ca)
- June 6-24, 2011: **Canadian School of Peacebuilding**, Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg MB. Five day courses are offered for professional development or academic credit. For more information, call (204) 487-3300 or visit cmu.ca/csop.
- July 1, 2011 (deadline): **Rotary Peace Fellowship**. The Rotary Foundation is now accepting applications for the world-competitive Rotary Peace Fellowship. The fellowship provides academic and practical training to prepare scholars for leadership roles in solving

*continued on page 11*

**Upcoming events** *continued from page 10*

conflicts around the world. Up to 100 fellows are selected every year in a globally competitive process based on personal, academic, and professional achievements. Fellows earn a master's-level degree or a professional development

certificate in peace and conflict studies at one of six Rotary Peace Centers at leading universities in Argentina, Australia, England, Japan, the United States and Thailand. ([www.rotary.org/rotarycenters](http://www.rotary.org/rotarycenters))

- October 2-6, 2011: **Global Alliance Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace**, Cape Town, South Africa. The Global Alliance is a civil society organization calling for the establishment of Ministries and Departments of Peace in governments worldwide. ([mfp-dop.org](http://mfp-dop.org))

Friday March 25, 2011: 7:30 pm. **Uranium in the Environment:**

Mr. Ed Lawrence, Gardening Columnist for CBC Ontario

Also Dr. Cathy Vakil, Member of the Environmental Committee, Ontario Affiliate of the College of Family Practice, and Dr. Art Wiebe, organic farmer and board member of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

## Facing Off for Justice in a militarized world

Conflict Zones, Human Rights, and Health Care  
Saturday, March 26, 2011

Dr. John Cockburn

*Physical challenges of military intervention  
New injuries need new skills*

Dr. Donna Lougheed

*Psychological challenges –  
Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome*

Theresa Dunn

*Creating a Healing Culture*

Rachel Thibeault

*Re-engaging ex-Combatants*

Dr. Jeff Turnbull, President, CMA

### Prevention of Conflict/War

Dr. Nancy Covington: *ICAN update*

Dr. Michael Dworkind: *Prevention of  
Nuclear War*

**7:30 pm**

Ian Fairlie, Ph.D

*Radioactivity and Nuclear Power Plants*

**8:00 pm**

Dr. Helen Caldicott

*Speaking Boldly: Connected through  
radioactivity*



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# FACING OFF FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN A MILITARIZED WORLD

## CONFLICT ZONES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH CARE

March 25-26, 2011  
Saint Paul University  
Ottawa, Ontario

Friday, March 25  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Uranium in the Environment  
panel featuring popular  
CBC gardening specialist  
**Ed Lawrence** followed by  
**Wine and Cheese Reception,**  
Admission \$10;  
in the Amphitheatre



Saturday, March 26  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Conflict Zones  
Human Rights and  
Health Care featuring  
Special Guest Speaker  
**CMA President  
Dr. Jeff Turnbull**  
in the Amphitheatre

Saturday, March 26  
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Special Guest presentations  
by **Ian Fairlie, PhD** and  
**Dr. Helen Caldicott;**  
Admission \$10;  
in the Auditorium

**Daytime Admission:** \$120 for Physicians \$100 for PGS Physician members, \$25 for all others; Students: pay what you can. This event is sponsored by Physicians for Global Survival. To register or for more information contact Andrea Levy at [pgsadmin@web.ca](mailto:pgsadmin@web.ca), by phone at 613-233-1982 or visit the PGS website at [www.pgs.ca](http://www.pgs.ca)



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