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Turning Point

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

The world needs a A Nuclear Weapons Convention



World Medical Association Statement on Nuclear Weapons:

the WMA Declarations of Geneva, of Helsinki and of Tokyo make clear the duties and responsibilities of the medical profession to preserve and safeguard the health of the patient and to consecrate itself to the service of humanity. The WMA considers that it has a duty to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Therefore the WMA:

- condemns the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, deployment, threat and use of nuclear weapons
- requests all governments to refrain from the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, deployment, threat and use of nuclear weapons and to work in good faith towards the elimination of nuclear weapons; and
- requests all National Medical Associations to join the WMA in supporting this Declaration and to urge their respective governments to work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Turning Point



PHYSICIANS FOR GLOBAL SURVIVAL
MÉDECINS POUR LA SURVIE MONDIALE
CANADA

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Turning Point is the newsletter of Physicians for Global Survival (Canada), a non-profit organization. To receive Turning Point and support our work we invite you to join PGS.

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."

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International Physicians
for the Prevention of Nuclear War



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President's Letter

by Dr Michael A. Dworkind



Returning from the meeting of the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW), which took place in Ottawa on January 25 and 26, I felt elated by the show of unity, solidarity, vision and strength presented by the nuclear abolition movement. The theme of the meeting – Practical Steps to Zero Nuclear Weapons – made for a substantive and comprehensive conference. The meeting, co-sponsored by Physicians for Global Survival, also included Lawyers for Social Responsibility, the Canadian Pugwash Group, Project Ploughshares, the World Federalist Movement (Canada) and others.

We heard about opportunities for action from a wide range of speakers including members from the department of National Defence, a Secretary from NATO from Brussels, and political science students from Western Ontario as well as Canadian leaders like Douglas Roche, Alexa McDonough, and Ernie Regehr (Project Ploughshares). Important discussions were held on changing

NATO's strategic nuclear policies.

The keynote address by Dr. John Burroughs, Executive Director of Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy (NYC), gave the American perspective on going to zero. This "precious Obama moment" echoed the President's hope of abolishing nuclear weapons.

I had the privilege of leading a workshop with Professor Erika Simpson's political science students on our ICAN campaign and the international physician's peace movement to promote the Nuclear Weapons Convention.

The theme of the convention was echoed by this year's Right Livelihood Award winner, Alyn Ware, International Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Non Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament (this Award is sometimes referred to as the "alternative Nobel Prize"). He gave an inspiring and energizing presentation on how his native New Zealand became a nuclear weapons-free zone and challenged parliamentarians in Canada and worldwide to lead governments to do the same. Paul Dewar, M.P., closed the event with a rousing speech... "As Canadians we must support President Obama's effort in multilateral negotiations to abolish nuclear weapons using the Convention to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction."

La lettre du Président

par Dr Michael A. Dworkind

À mon retour de la réunion du Réseau canadien pour l'abolition des armements nucléaires, tenue à Ottawa les 24 et 26 janvier, je me réjouissais de l'unité, de la solidarité, de la vision et de la vigueur dont venait de faire preuve le mouvement pour l'abolition des armes nucléaires. Le thème de la rencontre, «Mesures pratiques pour atteindre zéro arme nucléaire» – a contribué à faire de

l'évènement une conférence substantielle et détaillée. Co-commanditée par Médecins pour la survie mondiale, la rencontre a réuni plusieurs autres partenaires, notamment : Avocats en faveur d'une conscience sociale, le Canadian Pugwash Group, le Projet Ploughshares et le Mouvement fédéraliste mondial (Canada).

Parmi les nombreux conférenciers, on a pu entendre des représentants du Ministère de la défense nationale, un Secrétaire de l'OTAN (venu de Bruxelles), des étudiants en Science politique, et

Remembering Alex Bryans

Alex Bryans, mentor to many, died December 2, 2009. Alex was a founding member of Physicians for Global Survival, then Canadian Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War. Our original logo, a modified caduceus overlying the peace symbol, was his design.

...a very few of the people I met at Queen's showed me how ideas can lead to action, and how a life can then take form... I'd like to acknowledge... Dr Alex Bryans, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, a man who introduced notions of social responsibility and caring for those most vulnerable to several generations of young medical students.

Alex inspired us and taught us by example that personal involvement and engagement with the world is what is critical, to speak out, get involved, not make excuses, and to make yourself a small part of the solutions.

Dr. Mike Schull

"He was deeply committed to the Abolition of Nuclear weapons, and to a future Nuclear Weapon Free world. Also a well respected Paediatrician and Chair of the Kingston Children's department, and Professor of Paediatrics and also an Artist... his paintings I remember always had a message expressing his concerns."

Dr. Sylvia Keet Peebles

Whenever Alex was around one felt the presence of a true peacemaker. He was such an important person in PGS' history.

Dr. Barbara Birkett



During second year medical school at Queen's (about 1969), Alex was my 'clinical skills' teacher and epitomized my ideal of an incredibly caring physician, with an amazing ability to relate to parent and child alike. I next met him in a different setting – a community clinic in north Kingston, where I witnessed the fact that he was not just a pediatrician, but also a physician who could relate to the socially disadvantaged in society.

Dr. Nancy Covington

Alex is the reason I became a pediatrician, and my most cherished grad photo is one of he and I standing together in our gowns.

Dr. Marina Salvadori

He publicly demonstrated his unfailing support of efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and to PGS, in its various incarnations, in many ways – including the license plate of his car which read "CPPNW". He did make the world a better place.

Debbie Grisdale

Interactions with Alex always left one with a warm feeling. Now that is a gift we might all aspire to.

Dr. Stan Eaman

Muriel Duckworth

Another national peacemaker left us to carry on peace work last summer:

Muriel H. Duckworth, (October 31, 1908 – August 22, 2009) was a Canadian pacifist, feminist and social and community activist. She was also a practising Quaker, a religious denomination committed to non-violence. Duckworth maintained that war with its systematic violence against women and children is a major obstacle to social justice. She argued that money spent on armaments perpetuates poverty while reinforcing the power of privileged elites.

Ursula Franklin: "I would like her to be remembered as somebody who demonstrated that it's possible to change one's society, to be profoundly critical and still remain a respected member of that society."

A special thank you to Microwork's President, Kendall Loughheed, for generously donating several computers and a server to our Ottawa office. We are very grateful for your support.

des leaders d'opinion tels que Douglas Roche, Alexa McDonough et Ernie Regehr (Projet Ploughshares). Ils ont décrit plusieurs perspectives d'action et généré d'importantes discussions sur le besoin et la manière de changer les politiques nucléaires de l'OTAN.

L'orateur principal, M. John Burroughs, Directeur exécutif du Lawyer's Committee on Nuclear Policy (comité d'avocats sur la politique nucléaire basé à New York), a exposé le point de vue des États-Unis sur l'option «zéro arme nucléaire», donnant lieu à un «moment Obama», reflet du voeu du Président : abolir les armes nucléaires.

J'ai eu l'insigne privilège d'animer un atelier de travail avec les étudiants en Science politique du Professeur Erika Simpson, portant sur notre campagne ICAN et sur le mouvement international des médecins pour une Convention sur l'élimination des armes nucléaires.

Le thème de la conférence a été abordé par Alyn Ware, lauréat 2009 du Right Livelihood Award, communément appelé le Prix Nobel alternatif. M. Ware est Coordonnateur international de Parlementaires pour la non-prolifération nucléaire et le désarmement (PNND). Dans un style animé et stimulant, il nous

a raconté comment sa Nouvelle-Zélande natale est devenue zone d'interdiction des armes nucléaires et il a lancé, aux parlementaires du Canada et du reste du monde, le défi de faire la même chose. C'est le député fédéral Paul Dewar qui a clos la conférence. Dans un discours enlevé, il a notamment déclaré : «Comme Canadiens, nous devons appuyer les efforts que déploie le Président Obama dans les négociations multilatérales pour l'abolition des armes nucléaires et le recours à la Convention pour débarrasser la planète des armes de destruction massive.»

“The Obama Moment”:

Obama faces strong foes in the Pentagon, weapons labs, and Congress – the military-industrial complex is entrenched.

At this critical juncture, we Canadian peace activists need to redouble our efforts. We are at a crossroad. Many more countries – possibly 30 – and non-state actors will acquire nuclear weapons if nuclear disarmament stalls. A two-class system is unsustainable. The Nuclear Weapons States cannot claim nuclear arsenals are essential for their security, retain first-strike policies (as NATO, the US, and Russia do), and modernize their nuclear weapons, yet expect other nations not to join the nuclear club.

– Senator Doug Roche

Things People can do – Pick one, two or all.

- **Sign the Global Zero Declaration** at <http://www.globalzero.org/>
- **Sign the ICAN petition** at www.icanw.org, to support the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons launched by International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War.
- **Get your mayor involved** in Mayors for Peace and its campaigns, so cities become a political force demanding abolition and the addition of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki protocol* to the Non-Proliferation Treaty talks at the Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010.
- **Educate everyone you can**, especially young people, about the nuclear threat and the urgency of progress towards abolition.
- **Press the Government of Canada to resume leadership** and advocate for a UN world summit on nuclear disarmament and for negotiations to begin on a Nuclear Weapons Convention.
- **Tell politicians abolition is achievable** – there’s already a model convention, explained in *Securing Our Survival: the Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention*, a publication of IPPNW, IALANA, and INESAP** and circulated by Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon.
- **Press for the addition of a protocol to the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, at the Review Conference in May 2010, that would offer access to renewable energy to non-nuclear weapons states. The founding of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in January 2009 makes this offer feasible.
- **Press the Government of Canada to work for an Arctic Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone**, joining with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, as called for by the declaration issued by the Copenhagen conference sponsored by Pugwash groups, August 2009
- **Urge the Government of Canada to press for review** and reform of NATO’s nuclear policies, to make them consonant with the NPT disarmament obligations of NATO countries and the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

“...we’re also confronting perhaps the greatest danger to the American people – the threat of nuclear weapons. I’ve embraced the vision of John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan through a strategy that reverses the spread of these weapons and seeks a world without them.”

– President Obama, State of the Union Address, 2010

* The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol is a proposed protocol complementary to the NPT initiated by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign uses it to challenge national governments to follow through on the commitments they made in Article VI of the NPT which states that the parties undertake to pursue “negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”, and towards a “Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”. A popular phrase used in this campaign is CANT – “Cities Are Not Targets”.

* IPPNW = International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War
IALANA = International Association of Lawyers for Abolition of Nuclear Arms
INESAP = International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation

“Practical Steps to Zero Nuclear Weapons.”

High-ranking officials of the US State Department, NATO and the United Nations were in Ottawa last month to meet with the leaders of five national nuclear disarmament groups and experienced civil society leaders.

The “Practical Steps to Zero Nuclear Weapons” conference noted that because of President Obama, a new opportunity exists to make substantive reductions in the 23,000 nuclear weapons still in existence, halt proliferation and set the world on an irreversible path to zero nuclear weapons.

There are challenges. The President is fighting rearguard actions in his own country, and the international community tends to be focused on stopping the spread of nuclear weapons instead of negotiating their elimination as called for by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Obama needs the help of friends. Canada should support the U.S. President by making clear that Canada does not want to be an excuse for the US maintaining its nuclear umbrella over allies, said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association based in Washington, DC.

Participants focused on the proposal by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for a model Nuclear Weapons Convention, a global treaty prohibiting the development, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons. Already, 124 states at the UN have voted for such a global ban. Mayors for Peace, representing 3,500 cities around the world, has called for it. Polls show that a majority of citizens around the world favour it.

The sponsors of the conference—the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW), Canadian Pugwash Group, Physicians for Global

Survival, Project Ploughshares and World Federalist Movement-Canada—recommended that Canada press the forthcoming NPT Review Conference to begin preparatory work on a Convention.

Liberal Foreign Affairs critic Bob Rae called for a new dynamic thrust in Canadian foreign policy, and NDP Foreign Affairs critic Paul Dewar proposed a plan for Canada to support elimination by working on verification and related issues. There was surprise at the conference that there were no government attendees.

Canada’s chairmanship of the G8 and G20 meetings in Canada, the NPT Review Conference, and NATO’s Security Review all provide important opportunities for the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister to publicly address nuclear disarmament and reaffirm Canada’s commitment to a world without nuclear weapons.

In a backward step, Obama’s vice-president, Joe Biden, is quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying that the US is increasing investments in its nuclear arsenal and infrastructure. Those who claim that nuclear weapons are still necessary do not oppose “eventual” nuclear disarmament, but they keep “eventual” so far over the horizon as to be meaningless.

The nuclear weapons cycle, 65 years old, must be broken now before a new and exceedingly dangerous spurt of nuclear proliferation takes place. Two of Obama’s priorities—ratification of the ban on testing and a permanent

ban on the production of fissile material for weapons—need Canada’s strong support.

It is important for Canada to commit to preparations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. In 2002, DFAIT (the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade) began such work, but that lapsed in the Bush era. Will Canada seize the new opportunity?

Excerpted from a commentary by retired senator Douglas Roche (Canada’s former ambassador for disarmament) and Ernie Regehr (senior policy adviser to Project Ploughshares) published in the February 3, 2010, issue of “Embassy: Canada’s Foreign Policy Newsweekly”.

Dr. Nancy Covington will be representing PGS on the Steering Committee of the Canadian Network for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.



The Chair of CNANW is Bev Delong, National President of Lawyers for Social Responsibility, from Calgary with a lifelong dedication to abolition of nuclear arms.

Things you might have missed:

- **Nonviolent Peaceforce**, an international civilian peacemaking organization, has been awarded an official role in providing civilian protection within the UN International Monitoring Team in Mindanao in the Southern Philippines.
- From the **Nobel Peace Prize**: More than 6,000 people marched in Oslo after US President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with a speech justifying war, urging him to live up to the Prize. The crowd marched in a peaceful, torchlight procession carrying signs saying “No to Nuclear Weapons” or bearing peace symbols. Obama, with his wife Michelle, waved to the crowd from his hotel balcony for several minutes.
- **The Norwegian Peace Initiative** organized 3000 protesters to call for an end to the war in Afghanistan, control of the arms trade, elimination of nuclear weapons and the halt of Israeli settlements. They chanted, “Yes, Yes, Yes We Can, Stop the War in Afghanistan.”
- **Haiti: Some good news...** At a time when the Haitian commercial banks remained closed, Fonkoze, a micro-credit program and banking system for more than 200,000 women in Haiti, managed, over one weekend to get funds to its members in rural towns and Port-au-Prince. Also known as Haiti’s “Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor”, Fonkoze found a way to get money to its members through the 34 of its 41 branch offices still open after the earthquake. Much of its funds came from Haitians working abroad.
- **Global Zero Campaign**: A conference of past-presidents, diplomats, generals, business leaders, clerics, academics and arms experts occurred in Paris during the first week of February, 2010. Global Zero will focus its attention on cutting the more than 20,000 remaining strategic and tactical nuclear weapons held by the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France, Israel, India and Pakistan.
- **LaOnf** is an Iraqi organization that teaches nonviolent conflict resolution. In December 2009, it received recognition for its work in Iraq by Rights and Democracy, a Montreal-based institution that supports projects that build competence in civil society.
- **The 8th National Conference of the Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD)**, the Indian affiliate of IPPNW, which began on 29 January 2010 with a peace rally outside Taj Mahal, called for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons, checks on the proliferation of small arms, resolution of issues through mutual dialogue, relaxation of visa rules for travel, and diversion of funds from arms race to health, education and development. The conference set an agenda for action in pursuit of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), effective steps to prevent climate change, and a people-oriented health policy.
- **Yucca Mountain**: After more than two decades of debate over storing radioactive spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain, U.S. Federal support for the site has been withdrawn.
- In January 2010, the **Harper government** quietly announced that after decades of support, Canada was ceasing aid to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA.) Founded in 1949, UNRWA is the primary organ to provide aid to Palestinian refugees scattered around the world. Canada has provided funding to UNRWA for years, and typically providing UNRWA with up to 4 percent of its budget, about \$20 million annually.
- **“Nuclear renaissance”** has turned out to be a fizzle. The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), a non-partisan think tank providing informed advice to decision-makers on multilateral governance issues says that after 10 years of claiming resurgence, the world’s fleet of nuclear reactors has become smaller. There has been a decline in the contribution of nuclear power to the world electricity production, from 16.7% in 2000 to 13.5% in 2008. According to the report, “research and development is proceeding at such a pace for most of the alternatives that improvements in performance and cost will likely arrive faster than for nuclear technology.”
- **Weberville Area Connection (WAC)** <http://list.web.net/lists/listinfo/rad-waste> for updates about nuclear waste <http://peaceandhealthblog.com/> for more about **IPPNW** or enter your own blog <http://www.cigionline.org> the **Centre for International Governance Innovation**

Your contributions at work...

- **“Peaceful Childhoods”**, a PGS publication, is still being used – the BC teachers federation is reprinting and circulating the guide.
- **“Seriously Time to Stop”**
A contest for two minute videos with great prizes for students. Deadline is April 30, 2010. Check it out: www.seriouslytimetostop.com/videocontest.htm
- **Order of Canada Project:** The number of recipients of the Order of Canada, the highest Canadian civilian honour, who support a Nuclear Weapons Convention is approaching 500.
- **Mayors for Peace:** As of December 1st Mayors for Peace counted 3,396 member cities and municipalities, in 134 countries and regions. With the mantra “Cities are Not Targets” (CANT), the Mayors for Peace campaign aims for zero nuclear weapons by 2020. Mayors for Peace is aiming at 5,000 members during the upcoming NPT Review Conference in May 2010.
- **IPPNW campaign to convert Radiopharmaceutical Production to LEU (Low Enriched Uranium)**
Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) is currently used in some reactors to produce the radioisotopes used in medical diagnostics and treatment. HEU has a dual use as the uranium in nuclear weapons. Medical isotopes can be produced

just as readily from LEU but producers have been reluctant to make the change. The United States has passed a bill to encourage the change.

IPPNW exhorts its members to urge the phase-out of medical commerce in HEU and terminate one of the most vulnerable pathways to the much-feared “terrorist bomb”. Governments must require isotope production reactors to convert to LEU fuel and targets; governments that supply HEU must institute compelling incentives – preferably coordinated – for radiopharmaceutical producers to convert to LEU in the near future.

Upcoming:

- **5000 Letters Project:** At the CNANW meetings in January, we were told that 5000 letters on a topic were needed to bring the subject matter to the attention of otherwise reluctant MPs and high level diplomats. We are on a mission to get that attention for the Nuclear Weapons Convention. We’re making it easy for you to cut off the back page of this newsletter, sign it, put it into an envelope and mail it.
- **Hiroshima Day project:** Walk, Run or Work for peace! Inspired by Virginia Megan, a runner whose 60th birthday occurs on August 6th, 2010, we’re asking peaceniks to get involved wherever they are in the world! Virginia raised \$3000 when she turned 50 by dedicating each footfall of her run to victims of the bomb. Her “official” run will occur in Burlington. If you can’t run or walk, we ask you to donate your salary on August 6th to those who do – or directly to Physicians for Global Survival.
- **Annual General Meeting:** March 26th at the PGS Office on Spruce Street, Ottawa
- **Global Health and Human Rights:** March 27th at the Ottawa Public Library
- **Canadian Conference on Global Health (CCGH) 2010**
The Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) “Global Health: A Humanitarian Crisis?” October 31 – November 3, 2010, Ottawa
The call for abstracts for papers and posters closes on March 29, 2010
- Notice: **The International Astronomical Union** has named an asteroid after **Joseph Rotblat!!!**

The only physicist who walked away from the Manhattan project and the guiding spirit of the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, Joseph was the subject of a documentary “The Strangest Dream” available from the National Film Board.

Pan Zhenqiang, retired Chinese general and a member of the Pugwash branch in China, responded: “How wonderful to know that Joe would always be watching us over the sky! This should inspire all of us to work even harder for a world free of nuclear weapons. I believe that is also his most cherished dream”.

- The **Turning Point** gratefully receives feedback from readers. Please let us know about events in your area, offer to write an article or a book review. Contact us for particulars.

Honoring a peacemaker: Ann Gertler

Ann Gertler, shown here speaking with Bill Curry, is an inspirational peace activist. During the 1940's she worked for a United States Senator sheparding Manhattan Project scientists around Washington. She became opposed to nuclear weapons and then to all war. She said "the war system will remain intact as long as there is nothing to replace it. The weapons are not the cause but the results of our fears and hatreds."

Ann has been on the Executive of the International Peace Bureau, and of

Pugwash, a member of the Canadian Government Delegation to the UN; Vice-Chair, Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security; Staff Member, US Senate Military Affairs Committee; Instructor, Mount Holyoke College. Ann was on the Board of Ploughshares.

Among many other accomplishments, Ann and her husband, Maynard, started Harvest House Books in 1960 to introduce Quebec's "quiet revolution" to the rest of Canada.



Meet the Board:



Dr. Barbara Birkett:

Barbara entered private practice as a Dermatologist, a specialist in skin diseases, in 1965. How does a dermatologist get involved in prevention of nuclear war?

Barbara's father was an Anglican priest who wrote a book called "He shall speak Peace" so, she says, "I guess the concerns were always there." Her real activism began when she went to her 25th class reunion in McGill and heard Don Bates speak. Among her many mentors, she claims Alan and Joy Phillips, Joanna Santa Barbara, Khursh Ahmed, Stan Eaman and Ed Crispen. In 1988 she attended her first IPPNW conference in Montreal. Barbara is a former PGS President.

Married for 49 years to Richard Birkett, at a time when a woman having a career was not the norm, Barbara managed to become President of the Medical Staff, be a member of the Board of the Canadian Dermatological Association and a clinical lecturer in Dermatology at the University of Toronto College of Medicine. Her favourite quote comes from Doug Roche, "Hope is a Verb."

Dr. Douglas Alton

Doug chose medicine because he wanted the independence to "do good". Although he loved general practice and the contact with people, his advisors in medicine recommended radiology because of his hearing disability. Immediately upon completing his residency, he and Janis went to Malaysia with their two children to work and travel. It was clearly a good mix because Doug is recognized as the Founder of the Department of Biomedical Imaging at the University of Malaysia Medical Centre.

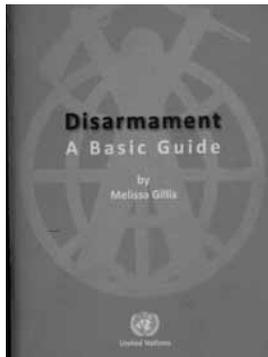
It was the 1960's when the world was paranoid but the beginnings of activism stirred when Doug and his family discovered that strangers in far away lands did not want to "nuke" the rest of us.

Doug works as a paediatric radiologist at Toronto Sick Children's Hospital. He became committed to IPPNW after an event organized by Frank Sommers in 1981 in Montreal and shortly thereafter went to Russia as part of civilian support for abolition of nuclear weapons.

Doug's favourite quote is "nuclear weapons are bad for your health." With mutual admiration and supporter in his wife, Janis Alton, who is also a peace activist, Doug represents PGS as an International Counsellor at IPPNW.



Disarmament A Basic Guide



by Melissa Gillis
United Nations, New York, 2009

Having trouble deciphering the alphabet soup of disarmament acronyms? This is easy to read. It's a 96 page booklet

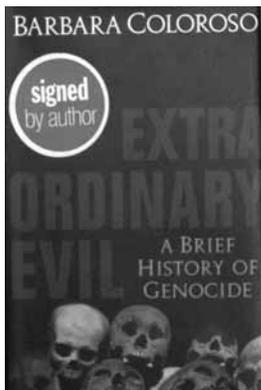
published by the United Nations. From the first short chapter, "Why is Disarmament Important?" to the final "Stay Informed and Get Involved", it is a captivating and harsh description of military spending, interactions of states' parties, and interpretations of Treaties.

For anyone seeking more information there are a wealth of websites – some specific to the topic of the chapter ie cluster bombs and others general to

peace and disarmament. Each chapter is headed by a memorable quote: *"I KNOW NOT with what weapons World War III will be fought but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."* Albert Einstein.

Can be found online at <http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/AdhocPublications/PDF/guide.pdf>

Extra Ordinary Evil: A Brief History of Genocide



by Barbara Coloroso
Published by Penguin Books, 2007

"The only thing one can learn from history is that actions have consequences and that certain choices once made are irretrieoable."

With this quote from Gerda Lerner (The Creation of Patriarchy), the book catapults the reader into a very

dark side of human history.

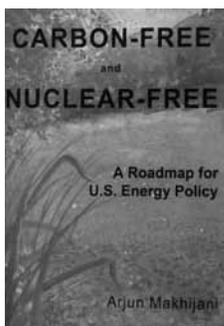
A wall in a room in Kigali, Rwanda, lists genocides from around the world beginning with 15,000,000 Indigenous people in North America starting in the 1600's and ending with the on-going genocide in Sudan.

However, applying the strict definition of genocide accepted by the UN in 1948, there were probably only three genocides in the 20th Century – those of the Armenians by the Turks in 1915-1918, the Jews by the Nazis 1933-1945, and the Tutsis by the Hutus in 1994. The author argues that genocide is not

part of a continuum of violence but a specific act of evil in and of itself. She produces convincing evidence that these are "methodically planned and executed policies of government" and provides evidence that Hitler learned from the Armenian genocide to enact the Nazi genocide.

The final chapter, Restoring Community, strikes a cautiously positive note. Unlike the stories of the Armenians and the Jews, the Rwandans – Hutu and Tutsi alike – are openly acknowledging the genocide and trying to re-build trust between neighbours.

Carbon-Free and Nuclear Free A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy



Arjun Makhijani
Published jointly by IEER Press* and RDR Books

With this book, Ph.D engineer Arjun Makhijani not only envisions a future that is truly sustainable in terms of energy but provides extensive data to support such a vision.

Its principles and analysis have direct relevance for Canada (despite U.S. subtitles). Although Arjun becomes quite technical at times, there is something for everyone.

Looking for answers? Do you want to know how close we can come to sustainable carbon output with little change in our standard in living? In fact, by decreasing pollution, one might argue that our standard of living would actually improve. Alternative energy

sources provide more jobs than oil, coal and nuclear; more jobs means less unemployment and greater participation in the economy.

Most climatologists agree that we must act now for future generations. This is a roadmap that should be shared with decision makers.

* IEER: Institute for Energy and Environmental Research at www.ieer.org

About the letter on the opposite page

This letter can be signed and sent to the Prime Minister postage free. If you feel so inclined, both of the following like to be informed about what Canadians think and appreciate receiving letters. (Postage to Geneva is \$1.70 + tax)

Jonathan Tan

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Ambassador Marius Grinius

The Canadian Permanent Mission
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5 Avenue de l'Ariana
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Join us!!

Physicians for Global Survival is always looking for members, supporters and sustainers.

The monthly plan – either by voided cheque or by credit card – is our favourite because it allows us to plan projects and cover off the day to day expenses.

And... Members give us a public voice.

Better yet, plan to do both! Memberships at \$120 for physicians, \$60 for supporters and make a monthly donation of \$20 – sky's the limit!

Conference program – March 27, 2010

Global Health and Human Rights, from 9:30 to 4:30 in the Ottawa Public Library

Panel Discussions:

9:30-10:45 **Nuclear Weapons and Human Rights**

Michael Dworkind, Setsuko Thurlow and Paul Maillet

11:00-12:15 **Conflict Zones – Human Rights – Health Care**

Medicins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders), Peace Brigades International and Mines Action Canada

1:15-2:30 **Uranium – In our Backyards**

Cathy Vakil, Linda Harvey and Bob Lovelace

2:45-4:00 **Social Determinants of Health/ Poverty**

Lee MacKay and Peggy Taillon



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PHYSICIANS FOR GLOBAL SURVIVAL
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CANADA

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa
K1A 0A2

Re: Nuclear Weapons

Canadians have always been proud of the fact that Canada does not have nuclear weapons. We want Canada to champion a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

There are currently more than 22,000 nuclear weapons around the world, most of them in Russia and the United States and some of them in a Launch on Warning status. A nuclear detonation over any city would make the devastation wrought by the Haitian earthquake look small. It is a weapon of mass destruction.

We urge the Government of Canada to:

Host a gathering of states to begin preparatory work on a Nuclear Weapons Convention – much as was done with the Land Mines Treaty.

End the reliance of NATO on nuclear weapons.

Urge an immediate end to the “Launch on Warning” status of weapons in Russia and the United States.

Canadians have been pleased to see that the Prime Minister is championing the health of women and children. Supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention will send a strong signal to the international community that Canada is serious about the health of humanity.

As host of the G8 and G20 meetings this June, we believe that you, Mr. Harper, have an unprecedented opportunity to become a leader in developing a non-proliferation policy that strengthens peace and security.

Please communicate your intentions on this matter to me.

Yours sincerely,

Name and address



Global Health and Human Rights: **IT'S NO GAME.**

Saturday, March 27, 2010 | Ottawa Public Library | 9:30-4:30

Featuring Hiroshima Survivor and a recent recipient of Order of Canada, **Setsuko Thurlow**, on nuclear weapons and human rights; and Ardoch First Nation Co-Chief, **Bob Lovelace**, on "uranium in our backyards".

Conflict Zones, Human Rights and Health Care will be covered with speakers from Doctors without Borders, Peace Brigades Canada and Mines Action Canada

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This program meets the accreditation criteria of The College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been accredited by the Ontario chapter for up to 5.5 Mainpro-M1 credits.



For information contact Andrea Levy
at pgsadmin@web.ca, by phone at 613-233-1982
or visit our website at www.pgs.ca



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