

TURNING POINT

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

Stop warring and stop warming

by Dale Dewar, M.D.

PEAK OIL. PEAK FOOD. DECLINING ENVIRONMENT. GLOBAL WARMING. Should we "fiddle while Rome burns" or roll up our sleeves and make a difference?

The doomsayers seem to be telling us that there is no salvation and that the world as a home for the human race has few decades remaining.

Certainly, with our current obsession with an economic system requiring 3% growth for viability, our addiction to oil and our worship of the military-industrial complex, change looks unlikely.

But never doubt the power of the human mind for compassion or human innovation for change!

In 1989, Cuba faced rapid withdrawal from its source of energy and fertilizer with the fall of the Soviet Union. Their fuel intensive large-scale state-owned farms actually used more oil and gas per hectare than North American farmers at that time. Within two years the economy crashed. Previously sidelined agronomists whose avocation for change had fallen upon deaf ears were called in to save the population from starvation.

They broke up the state-owned farms and bred oxen to replace tractors. They started teaching agriculture at colleges because suddenly they needed much more farm labour. They paid those farmers more. They encouraged urban and roof-top gardens which now, incidentally, provide more than 50% of vegetables for their city dwellers.

Most of the West pooh-pooed the changes as only possible under a totalitarian regime.

But is that so? In the past year we have seen two examples of environmental targets made and surpassed. Vancouver's public transportation goals were met three years before target, and Germany similarly converted 12% of its reliance on electricity to renewables. In both cases, public education, public policy, and financial incentives provided the leverage. Even so, legislators in both jurisdictions have commented on the enthusiasm with which people endorsed the changes.

People want to be part of the solution; they often merely need the tools to participate. One author (Lester Brown: *Plan B 2.0*) estimates that change will cost about \$160 billion per year, a fraction of the approximately \$975 billion per year that the world spends on the military.

Our survival depends upon changing the ways we use our resources.

This brings to an end my term as President of Physicians for Global Survival. I would like to thank our hard-working Board of Directors, our tireless Executive Director Debbie Gridale, and our members and supporters, for the opportunity and for the support that I've enjoyed.

I would like to welcome our in-coming President, Dr. Nancy Covington, who takes the office on June 30, 2007 and our in-coming Executive Director, Jane Maxwell, who assumed the position on April 30, 2007.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve.

—Dale Dewar
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The Board of Directors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the "Doomsday Clock" forward in January from seven to five minutes to midnight in view of the fact that the world stands at the brink of a second nuclear age and that "the dangers posed by climate change are nearly as dire as those posed by nuclear weapons".

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

Cessez les conflits mais faites la guerre au réchauffement !

par Dale Dewar, M.D.

Production maximale de pétrole.
Production maximale d'aliments.
Crise de l'environnement.
Réchauffement climatique. Devons-nous rester à ne rien faire ou retrousser nos manches et faire la différence?

Les alarmistes écologiques semblent nous dire qu'il n'y a point de salut et que la terre, résidence de la race humaine, n'a que quelques décennies à vivre.

En raison de notre obsession pour un système économique nécessitant une croissance de 3 % pour assurer sa viabilité, de notre dépendance au pétrole et de notre admiration du complexe militaro-industriel, on ne peut guère s'attendre à un changement.

Mais, ne doutez jamais du pouvoir de l'esprit humain pour la compassion ou l'innovation humaine pour le changement.

En 1989, avec la chute de l'Union soviétique, Cuba a dû faire face à un retrait rapide de ses sources d'énergie et d'engrais. À cette époque, leurs grandes fermes gouvernementales étaient de grosses consommatrices de carburant et utilisait plus de pétrole et d'essence par hectare que tous les fermiers nord-américains réunis. En deux ans, leur économie s'est effondrée. Les agronomes mis à l'écart, dont les propositions de changement tombaient toujours dans l'oreille de sourds, ont été sollicités pour sauver la population de la famine.

Ils ont démonté les fermes gouvernementales et ont élevé de bœufs pour remplacer les tracteurs. Ils ont commencé à enseigner l'agriculture dans les collèges parce que, soudainement, ils avaient besoin de plus de main-d'œuvre agricole. Ils payaient mieux leurs fermiers. Ils ont encouragé les jardins urbains et les jardins terrasses qui, incidemment, produisent maintenant plus de 50 % des légumes consommés par les citoyens.

La plupart des occidentaux ont levé le nez

sur ces changements comme n'étant réalisables que sous un régime totalitaire.

Qu'en est-il vraiment ? Au cours de la dernière année, nous avons connu deux exemples d'atteintes et même de dépassements d'objectifs environnementaux. Trois ans avant la date prévue, les objectifs du système de transport public de Vancouver ont été atteints et, dans le même ordre d'idée, l'Allemagne a réussi à convertir 12 % de sa dépendance en électricité en énergie renouvelable. Dans les deux cas, l'éducation du public, les politiques gouvernementales et les incitatifs économiques ont créé un effet de levier. Pourtant, les législateurs des deux juridictions ont remarqué l'enthousiasme avec lequel la population a appuyé les changements.

Les gens veulent faire partie de la solution; souvent, seuls les outils leur manquent pour participer. Un auteur (Lester Brown: *Plan B 2.0*) a évalué les coûts du changement à 160G \$ par année, une fraction des quelques 975G \$ par année que le monde dépense pour les activités militaires.

Notre survie dépend de la façon dont nous utiliserons désormais nos ressources.

Ceci met fin à mon mandat de présidente de l'Association des médecins pour la survie mondiale. Je voudrais remercier notre très vaillant conseil d'administration ainsi que Debbie Grisdale, notre inépuisable directrice exécutive et tous nos membres et partisans, pour m'avoir donné cette chance et tout le support dont j'ai bénéficié.

J'aimerais souhaiter la bienvenue à notre nouvelle présidente, Dr Nancy Covington, qui entrera en fonction le 30 juin 2007 ainsi qu'à notre nouvelle directrice exécutive, Jane Maxwell, qui occupe ce poste depuis le 30 avril 2007.

Ce fut pour moi un privilège et un honneur d'occuper ces fonctions,
—Dale Dewar

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TURNINGPOINT



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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 are tax-creditable. Any items for publication, 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 strictly have to conform to present PGS policy. They must be transmitted via e-mail to: pgsadmin@web.ca.

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"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 nos préoccupations 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**

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) is a new campaign initiated by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). It focuses on the roots of the nuclear weapons problem - the continued possession of nuclear weapons by a small minority of countries, who risk their use by design, accident, miscalculation or by terrorists, and whose weapons are an incentive to others to also become nuclear armed. ICAN aims to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention to ban the development, possession and use of nuclear weapons. The five Demands or goals of ICAN, adapted specifically for Canadian participation, are listed here.



We Demand...

A nuclear weapon-free world. Nuclear weapons have no military or security utility; are immoral, illegal and; their use can never be justified. They are at risk of being used by accident or miscalculation. They can be acquired by extremists. Non-nuclear weapon states feel insecure and driven to acquire them.

1 A NEGOTIATED NUCLEAR ABOLITION

There are about 27,000 nuclear weapons around the world. The abolition of nuclear weapons is achievable through a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). Such a treaty would provide for their elimination in much the same way that treaties have banned landmines and chemical and biological weapons.

2 NO NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Nuclear weapon states are continuing to upgrade, modernize and test new nuclear weapons and other states are trying to acquire them. The original nuclear weapon states must be faithful to their "unequivocal undertaking" at the Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2000 to "accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals."

3 REDUCTION OF THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPON USE

Thousands of weapons can be launched in 20 minutes by Russia and the United States. Taking them off such "high alert" status would prevent detonation by accident or hasty decision, by human or computer error. Every nuclear weapon state should commit itself to a "No First Use" policy - a pledge never to initiate a nuclear exchange. Canada should declare itself a nuclear weapon-free zone.

4 ADOPT A NUCLEAR-FREE DEFENCE POSTURE

NATO's statement that nuclear weapons are "essential" is incompatible with its unequivocal commitment to nuclear disarmament. As a member of NATO, Canada should call for the dismantling of nuclear weapons assigned to NATO.

At present there is a "neither confirm nor deny" policy with respect to the presence of nuclear weapons on vessels entering Canadian waters. Canada should demand transparency and deny entrance to nuclear weapons in our ports.

5 CEASE PRODUCING FUEL FOR WEAPONS

Canada should stop exporting uranium to any nation that has nuclear weapons or is not a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

See www.icanw.org for more details.

Seeking A Diplomatic Solution with Iran

by Debbie Grisdale and Jillian Skeet

As U.S. warships gather in the Persian Gulf, threatening Iran, Canada has a unique opportunity to show global leadership and mediate the crisis to avert war.

The human and environmental disaster that has been wrought on Iraq could spread to Iran. Military strikes using conventional or nuclear weapons against Iran's nuclear facilities would have catastrophic health and environmental consequences for Iran, the Middle East, and eventually the world.

Iran's uranium enrichment processing, the focus of the current stand-off, is a legitimate activity for non-nuclear-weapons states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), when performed under strict international controls. The United States is demanding that Iran suspend this activity at the threat of force because it has failed to provide full disclosure of its enrichment activities to the International Atomic Energy Agency. The U.S. alleges that Iran's ultimate plan is for nuclear weapons production. To date, there is no concrete evidence that this is the case, and U.S. and British intelligence estimates are that Iran is still at least 5-10 years away from nuclear weapons capability.

We are in the midst of a dangerous stand-off and neither the United States nor Iran is likely to back down. The only way to avert inevitable catastrophe is to actively seek a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Canada's Relationship with Iran

Although Canada's relations with Iran have been strained recently over the death of Canadian-Iranian journalist, Zahra Kazemi—and the refusal of the Iranian government to hold anyone to account for her brutal death in an Iranian jail—Canada has never completely slammed the door on contact with the Iranian regime. Following the Zahra Kazemi affair, Canada restricted its contacts with the Iranian regime to those regarding her case, and specific ongoing issues: human rights generally, its support of terrorism, and nuclear non-proliferation.

With a large Iranian population in Canada that maintains close familial and trade ties, the government felt it best to maintain Canada's embassy and work with the Iranian government on "the serious existing difficulties in our relationship." Canada has thus maintained a policy of "controlled engagement" with Iran. This means, for example, that Canada has allowed an active trade relationship while closely monitoring activities to

ensure that there is no trade in "dual use" technologies.

While Canada has recently announced its support for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737, the sanctions imposed on Iran by this resolution are not a major departure from the controls on "dual use" materials that Canada has observed for many years. Although the monitoring of financial transactions may create some difficulties for on-going trade, the existing trade in oil, carpets, fruits and nuts remains legitimate.

Canada as a Bridge Between Worlds

Canada's reputation in the world, and our refusal to be party to the illegal invasion of Iraq, puts us in a unique position to act as a bridge between the Islamic world and the West. We have diplomatic, cultural and personal ties with the US, Israel and Iran. We do not shrink from engaging in difficult issues with any of them. How can Canada begin to build this bridge?



1 An End to Global Double Standards

Iran is not the first country to refuse to acquiesce to the double standards established by the US and the other nuclear powers. Countries like Iraq, India, Pakistan, and North Korea have, one-by-one, taken a stand against what is viewed as an unjust "two-tiered" state system. In essence, they are demanding equal treatment and equal rights with the nuclear powers. Canada must continue to press its allies to fulfill the requirements of the NPT, and urge other nuclear powers to sign it.

2 A Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East

The first proposal to establish a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East was put forward by Iran and Egypt in the UN in 1974. This was also a key issue at NPT Review Conferences in 2000 and 2005.

The preferential treatment of Israel, which has been permitted to develop and maintain nuclear weapons, is central to the current dispute. Furthermore, Iran has signed the NPT treaty and Israel has not. The Israelis must be brought to see that their possession of nuclear weapons severely jeopardizes rather than safeguards their own security.

3 Getting the U.S. and Iran to Talk

Iran has stated that it is prepared to provide any and all guarantees that its nuclear program is peaceful, but it will not accept pre-conditions to negotiating. Since the 1979 revolution, the U.S. has refused any direct bilateral contact

with the Iranian regime. Low-level multilateral talks were held in early March 2007, to discuss the security situation in Iraq, but the U.S. was adamant that they would not engage in any bilateral discussions with Iran. The meeting was characterized as "constructive". The recent willingness of the U.S. to participate in joint meetings with Iran is an encouraging sign.

Canada could arrange "off the radar" meetings between represen-

tatives of concerned parties, and call upon the Security Council to bring Iran and the United States together in the Council's chamber.

There are opportunities for Canada to build a bridge that would take us away from war: fix the design flaw of nuclear double standards, make a strong foundation with a Middle East NWFZ, and ultimately keep traffic open between countries. ☺

Medical Student Diplomacy in Iran

In early April, a group of European medical students visited Iran as part of the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project. The students were hosted by students and doctors from the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support (SCVWS), which is organizing to become the Iranian affiliate of IPPNW. A previous visit to Iran by the Swedish IPPNW affiliate found Iranian medical students eager to start local activities in Tehran, which led to this visit.

Among other activities while in Tehran, the students presented the work of IPPNW's student movement, NWIP. They also gave three workshops, the first of which informed the students about nuclear weapons; the second discussed the topic of security; and in the third workshop the students brainstormed around activities they would like to do on a local level.

After the visit, the Iranian students outlined their plans by e-mail. These include a photo exhibition of the recent IPPNW student activities at Tehran University to

attract more students to the group. They also plan two workshops about chemical weapons at the next IPPNW congress.

The visiting NWIP students believe that the Iranian students will be a very important part of IPPNW's international peace movement. The European students learned a great deal from this visit: "We received a very positive response from the Iranian students, who felt that they had learned a lot about Nuclear weapons and IPPNW. The last workshop (Activism) went beyond our expectations. We think that knowledge about the Iran-Iraq war is essential for many reasons, amongst others because it was a war that had and still has a great impact on the young generation in Iran today. The Iran-Iraq war also teaches us another lesson; nobody expected chemical weapons to be used after WWI, but they were used by the Iraqi troops in Iran and Iraq (Halabja). Today nobody expects nuclear weapons to be used again, but as history has proven us wrong before, how can we be sure now?" ☺

Reinvigorating NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

by Senator Roméo Dallaire

In April Senator Dallaire spoke to a motion he presented previously urging Canada to take a lead role in reinvigorating nuclear disarmament. An excerpt from that speech follows.



At the heart of this matter is the frank realization that we must invent a new kind of global security, one not based on erroneous concepts of deterrence which only serve to augment our mutual lack of security. Increasingly, our individual actions have global consequences and only a global solution can possibly extricate us from this horrible predicament of having the ability to literally eliminate ourselves.

In the words of Martin Luther King: I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear annihilation.

We must all learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

I have seen with my own eyes genocide by machete. Although the machete would certainly not be perceived as a weapon of mass destruction, in 100 days it was able to kill 800,000 people. Imagine what nuclear genocide would look like. Any peace based upon the threat of genocide is an immoral bastardization of the concept of peace.

Honourable senators, we have reached a fork in the road of humanity. One path leads to certain apocalypse, the other to a peaceful cooperative world. Let Canada, this leading middle power, blaze the trail down the road of a sustainable future by respecting human rights

and doing all in our power to eliminate, to eradicate, to destroy nuclear weapons.

I am not an alarmist. I am a soldier, conscious of the capabilities and the vulnerabilities of those systems. This is the number one threat to the future of mankind. In the past, my warnings have fallen on deaf

ears, with tragic results in Africa. I implore each and every person who hears my words today to take them to heart and to learn more, and to take action on the fact that we are more vulnerable to self-destruction in this era than we were in an era that we considered very dangerous, that is, the Cold War.

One advantage of our technological age is that people can make their political voices heard and governments have no choice but to listen or fall. Significant expressions of public concern, both in quality and quantity, can spur governments to increase funding and take actions in response. Our time is running out. The nuclear arms race can have no winner but will lead to the loss of all that we cherish. The very future of our children, grandchildren and the not-yet-born swings in the balance. Surely our destructive capability will not overcome our desire to live, love and prosper. Disarmament is the litmus test of our humanity. We cannot afford to fail in this era. We must not fail, for we are committing genocide upon ourselves.

—from Debates of the Senate (Hansard), 1st Session, 39th Parliament, Volume 143, Issue 85, Tuesday, 17 April 2007.

Senator Dallaire endorses the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) ☯

SPACE

by Barbara Birkett M.D.

On January 11, 2007 the Chinese destroyed one of their own satellites about 850 km above the earth using an anti-satellite weapon known as ASAT. This produced concerns about the creation of another 40,000 pieces of space debris (about a 20% increase) and a possible arms race in Outer Space.

Space debris is the inevitable consequence of the global uses of space; every space launch will create some amount and form of debris - from active satellites to tiny flecks of paint. Even tiny pieces of debris can damage or destroy a satellite or spacecraft, due to the tremendously high speeds of objects in orbit. (Centre for Defense Information www.cdi.org).

We are perhaps blissfully unaware of our dependence on satellites which enable our automated banking machines (ATMs), weather monitoring, navigation, communications, and health networks such as AED- Satelife Center for Health Information and Technology. The last-named, for nearly 20 years, has provided health information to otherwise unreachable areas of the globe, involving 100,000 people in 120 different countries. Space debris threatens all of these. Debris in higher orbits can linger indefinitely.

The US has been the most dominant space power for some time and has presented a rather belligerent picture, claiming it should have space force applications and space control. In 2005 the US voted 'No' instead of abstaining on the annual United Nations PAROS (Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space) resolution. It was the only nation to do so.

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Annual Review 2006

Physicians for Global Survival (Canada)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



2006! What a whirlwind year for PGS! Three continuing medical education events (CME) were launched in Toronto, Saskatoon and Vancouver, one of which took place at the World Peace Forum. Many of our members also contributed to other aspects of the Forum. We developed the "Third Option" for Canada in Afghanistan.

We created a display banner, which travelled to the International Physicians for

Prevention of Nuclear War conference in Helsinki in September, where we were energized by the global movement of physicians for peace and justice. We also used our banner to advertise our work and recruit members at the Family Medicine Forum in Quebec City (an event attended by over 2,000 physicians).

The year 2006 saw rising concern about Iran and the threat of action from the US. PGS has written many letters and applied concerted effort to avert serious military intervention.

Environmental concerns have continued to grow. A preliminary paper was developed on Nuclear Power concluding that it is not a "clean" option.

Physicians for Global Survival has received media mention an amazing 34 times in the last 15 months, thanks to those who have taken microphones at rallies, taught at CME events, handed out brochures or wrote letters to newspapers. With your support, we are getting the word out. You can see more details on our 2006 activities on the next few pages.

—Dale Dewar,
President

2006 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Nuclear Disarmament

CTBT

PGS wrote to all 10 countries that have nuclear technology but have not yet signed the treaty; their signature is still required in order for the CTBT to come into force. In reply to our ten letters, we received – none.

Iran

PGS prepared an extensive briefing document and fact sheet providing background on the nuclear crisis with Iran. See www.pgs.ca for the fact sheet and background. Although we requested a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter MacKay, to discuss options for a peaceful solution to the crisis, including promotion of a

nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East, we were denied a meeting due to his time restraints. In November, we submitted to him, under a cover letter, about 400 postcards from our members expressing a desire for a peaceful resolution to the crisis with Iran.

North Korea

Given the recent media silence on North Korea, it is hard to believe that North Korea's nuclear activities caused an international crisis in 2006, but they did. In addition to its nuclear non-compliance, North Korea did a nuclear test in October. North Korea's actions gave rise to fears of an arms race in Asia. Six-Party talks led to an agreement in February that would see North Korea disable all nuclear programs in

exchange for fuel oil or equivalent aid and diplomatic benefits. Now that North Korea's demand to have access to its funds in Macao has been met, it should shut down and seal the Yongbyon reactor as a first step. PGS monitored the situation to provide our members with a balanced view of the crisis, and sent a letter of concern to Prime Minister Harper regarding talks and sanctions.

Middle Powers Initiative (MPI)

PGS has helped to organize several activities of the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) in Ottawa. These include a delegation led by the former prime minister, Kim Campbell, which met with elected officials and civil society groups and presented a brief to

Prime Minister Stephen Harper (www.middlepowers.org). In September PGS organized a public lecture by Dr Hans Blix titled Revive Disarmament. In addition to the media coverage we'd arranged, close to 300 people attended the lecture. Dr Blix recently chaired an international and independent Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission. PGS was also represented at the third meeting of the MPI's Article VI Forum, which seeks to bring governments and civil society together to examine the political, technical and legal elements of a nuclear weapon-free world.

Mayors for Peace (MfP)

By the end of 2006, 48 cities in Canada joined Mayors for Peace, which aims for solidarity of cities beyond national boundaries working toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons. As of February 2007, the number of cities that had joined was 1,578 in 120 countries. Of the 48 Canadian cities, 27 joined during 2006. PGS member, Newfoundlander Dr Katrina Hurley, wrote to 10 cities in Newfoundland and Labrador inviting them to join, describing medical concerns related to the existing arsenals of nuclear weapons. 7 out of the 10 cities joined MfP. In addition, PGS developed 4 issues of an e-newsletter that went to Canadian mayors, city councillors and activists containing useful articles on what they can do, and news items on such things as the adoption of a resolution in support of MfP by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. In the March issue, for example, mayors were encouraged to support the proclamation of an International Day of Peace (September 21).

NWFZ

From city by city, to whole regions of the globe, nuclear weapons are being rejected. In September, five countries signed a treaty creating a Central Asian nuclear weapons free zone. This is the 5th NWFZ in the world. PGS wrote letters of congratulations to all five coun-

tries in the new NWFZ: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Preventing War, Building Peace

Afghanistan

PGS pursued its mandate of preventing war by promoting a third option in Afghanistan. Rather than accepting one of the two apparent choices – fight a war or withdraw troops completely – PGS supports peace processes in Afghanistan, including dialogue with the armed opposition (Taliban and others). In fact, Joanna Santa Barbara spoke on this issue at the World Peace Forum. We also wrote articles, letters to Ministers, and did media interviews to make known our position on this issue.

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

We held three events across Canada to give physicians the opportunity to earn continuing education credits in areas of PGS expertise. In Toronto (March), the focus was on the role of the physician in the prevention of war and violence. In Saskatoon (September), sessions on violence reduction included peace through health and the effects of radiation on health. In Vancouver (June), we offered a full day of courses during the World Peace Forum. This included workshops on small arms, global health alerts, bio-terrorism, working in war zones, and nuclear weapons and health. In conjunction with Lawyers for Social Responsibility, we held the closing dinner at UBC, where IPPNW Co-president Ron McCoy gave a stirring speech, "A Question of Survival." More CME events are being planned for 2007. See page 8 of this issue for coverage of the March 2007 event.

Deans' Peace Project – PGS approached a Dean of Medicine to develop the best way to persuade

Deans of Medicine and Undergraduate Education to support the inclusion of nuclear and war issues in the medical curriculum, and to invite them to endorse PGS work for nuclear disarmament and war prevention. This will continue in 2007.

Outreach – PGS made its presence known at the Family Medicine Forum held in November in Quebec City. Physicians and students stopped by our booth; many left sporting our buttons. Overall, the reception was positive, as old supporters and new members alike were introduced to current issues.

Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) – At the May 2006 meeting of the Saskatchewan Medical Association, a motion was passed urging MD Management to create an ethical funds portfolio for its members, which would allow members not to financially support militarism or weapons, as well as favour environmental sustainability through their investments. This resolution was forwarded to the Canadian Medical Association, whose response has not been enthusiastic. Since 2005, PGS has been requesting the CMA to consider ethical investing for MD Management. After all, why would physicians not extend "do no harm" to their investments?

World Peace Forum

PGS was very active in the first World Peace Forum, held in Vancouver in June 2006. Over 5,000 people from all over the world and all walks of life attended this conference. From elect-



ed representatives to activists, they came together to promote a world without war, calling for reductions in military spending

and for a UN declaration of a decade for disarmament, among other things. PGS played a key role in the forum, co-organizing more than 15 workshops and plenaries related to nuclear weapons issues. This was in addition to their day of Continuing Medical Education on the Monday (June 26). Our plenary speakers were Mary-Wynne Ashford, whose *101 Solutions* book was launched during the forum, and Debbie Grisdale, who applied the lessons learned in the landmines campaign to disarmament issues today. PGS members gave presentations at several workshops. The World Peace Forum set the goal of a world without war to be achieved by the mobilization of cities and citizens for peace, and called upon the United States to lead the world in nuclear disarmament.

Video Games

Video Games That Promote Positive Social Change is a new listing on our Website. How can people learn tactics other than war for peaceful resolutions? One way is to try them out in video scenarios. Subjects of the games range from the role of a journalist in Palestine to the role of an African farmer protecting crops from drought, disease, and raiders.

Practical Idealists: Students and Youth

Summer Research Opportunity for Students

For four years now, PGS has provided



funding for medical students to pursue research during the summer. The first project was on the impact of militarism on the environment; the second brought us the report, *Effects of Media Violence on Adolescent Health* (available on our Web page); and the third project funded was on the health impact on Canadians of nuclear weapons testing. In 2006, two Montreal area students examined the relationship between gang violence and immigration.

Other PGS Student Funding

PGS supported other activities organized by students: the annual University of British Columbia Student Conference, "Toward Equity in Global Health" (March), and "Health and Human Rights Conference" at Queen's University (October). We also funded the travel of a student to South Africa, to present a paper at the World Injury Conference on his research into small arms in Uganda. The Tom Perry Educational Fund and Betty Smith Memorial Fund enabled students to participate in the World Peace Forum and our Continuing Medical Education events.

Communications

Turning Point

Some of you may have noticed that the Fall edition of *Turning Point* had a different look than earlier newsletters. In an effort to make our message clearer and more visually appealing, we have given extra attention to the content and the layout. Your feedback is welcome.

Visual Accessories

We now have a display panel that we take to vari-

ous conferences to help get our message across. The panel, which rolls up into a sturdy case, has already travelled across Canada and to Finland and back. This year also saw the introduction of our button: Nuclear Weapons are Bad for your Health.



IPPNW

IPPNW World Congress

A number of PGS members and Board members attended the 17th World Congress held in Helsinki in September. Speakers

addressed issues such as nuclear disarmament, small arms, and security through sustainable energy. Visit www.ippnw.org/congress to read the agenda and speeches, or see Nancy Covington's report in the Fall issue of *Turning Point*.

'Aiming for Prevention'

In addition to our ongoing relations with



IPPNW, PGS acted as a link between IPPNW and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs on the small arms project, "Aiming for Prevention." This project sought to mobilise physicians and health care workers in various

countries to prevent deaths and injuries from small arms and light weapons. We submitted a new proposal for further education and research in 2006/2007; although the project was favourably received, fund-

ing was not forthcoming. Despite this, we continued to work towards goals in our small arms program such as health-oriented policy development and education for rehabilitation of victims.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER



PGS enjoyed a good year financially in 2006. We are grateful to our supporters who gave generously to our work. The financial

statement shows a small deficit of \$2,687 (compared with a deficit of \$8,378 in the previous year). One of the reasons for the overall decrease in revenue was the failure of the Department of Foreign Affairs to renew funding for our project on small arms with IPPNW, Aiming for Prevention.

We are very pleased that so many of you chose to support PGS through monthly giving with the Peace Pledge Plan, which has shown considerable growth this year. We undertook a number of successful activities to reach out to new monthly members, including having a booth at the Family Medicine Forum in Quebec City in November.

The direct mail program, which serves both for fundraising and educational purposes, remained strong throughout the year. A successful prospect mailing

REVENUE

Total: \$353,323 (100%)

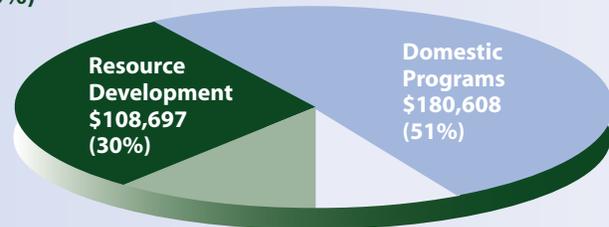
Foundations and Service Groups \$11,000 (3%)	Government \$28,771 (8%)	Other \$12,848 (4%)
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Where did PGS funds come from in 2006?



EXPENSES

Total \$356,009 (100%)



How were these funds put to work?

Notes:

1. Auditors for 2006 were van Berkum & Ritz Chartered Accountants.
2. Figures are based on audited financial statements, available upon request from the national office.

Administration
\$38,637
(11%)

International
\$28,067
(8%)

in November recruited several hundred new PGS members. Mailings to current PGS members included a special appeal related to the Iran crisis, which was supplemented by new educational materials on the PGS website.

Our office is small and PGS activities are carried out by our dedicated staff with the help of contracted writers and con-

sultants. Our fully audited statements are available to you from our office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your financial support in 2006.

—Katrina Hurley M.D.,
Treasurer

Farewell

Debbie Grisdale, Executive Director of Physicians for Global Survival (PGS) for the past 13 years, is leaving. A long-time peace activist, Debbie has worked with dedication on disarmament issues and related threats to global survival. To this end, she has presented submissions to parliamentary Standing Committees, participated in the consultations of international and national organizations, arranged petitions, reported on roundtables and the NPT committees, among other things. Through her own journalism, interviews with the media, the Website and even the "Nuclear Weapons are Bad for Your Health" button, Debbie has brought PGS issues to the attention of civil society.

Asked to look back, Debbie identified the landmines campaign as the most exciting period of her years with PGS. The first meeting was called in September of 1994, which grew into Mines Action Canada. Once the government became involved, the Canadian campaign to ban landmines began to move more quickly. "Those were heady times," she said. The treaty banning anti-personnel landmines was signed in 1997.

Yet when Debbie started working for PGS, she knew little about disarmament. She had worked in various community and international health and development settings in Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, and Nicaragua. She climbed a steep learning curve, taking a personal satisfaction in working hard. She now knows much about the issue, and recognizes the importance of pursuing peace. For example, her knowledge on the issues led to her inclusion as one of two NGO representatives by the Canadian government to attend Non-Proliferation Treaty Prepcoms (UN). Locally she worked with other community activists to create the 'Make Room for Peace' Committee, pressuring the new Canadian War Museum to include peace education within the museum's exhibits and programs.

War, weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons



on alert, the entire military establishment –these are huge and difficult issues that will not go away overnight. Debbie admits that there were moments when she thought, "Why am I doing this?" At times she felt as though she was chipping away at the base of a

monolithic structure. Despite the "lonely times," she learned from PGS members, and was inspired by members of the Board. Her work with PGS became a life altering experience.

So how can she leave us? Before this, Debbie had changed jobs every 3 years. While she is looking for a change of pace, she also feels that a change in staff leadership is healthy for PGS as an organization. "I am confident that I am leaving it in good hands," she said of her replacement, Jane Maxwell. Debbie may be leaving us, but she isn't leaving disarmament behind: after a restful break, she says she'll be back to working in the peace activism community.

Parting words from Dale Dewar: "PGS has been incredibly fortunate in having Debbie as our public face in Ottawa, where her knowledge and common sense were appreciated both in government and the NGO community. On behalf of the many supporters, members and executive who have been in contact or worked with you, thank you, Debbie, for exceeding your job description." ☺

New Radiation Hazard Symbol

With radiating waves, a skull and crossbones and a running person, a new ionizing radiation warning symbol was introduced earlier this year to supplement the traditional international symbol for radiation, the three cornered trefoil.

The new symbol was launched by the International Agency for Atomic Energy (IAEA) and the International

Organization for Standardization (ISO) to help reduce needless deaths and serious injuries from accidental exposure to large radioactive sources. It will serve as a supplementary warning to the trefoil, which has no intuitive meaning and little recognition beyond those educated in its significance. (www.iaea.org) ☺



Conflict and Health...

by Debra Martens

the Imperative for Response and Prevention

Effects of Violent Conflict on Children and their Families

- **direct death from weapons**
- **interruption of programs for health in developing countries (immunizations, micro-nutrients)**
- **loss of knowledge, as the death of agricultural workers and the flight of professionals creates a gap in the handing down of generational knowledge**
- **interruption of schooling**
- **idemicide - loss of family members and family stories, the destruction of homes and the loss of identity papers combine to create a new war crime: the loss of one's identity**
- **destroyed or plundered facilities**
- **no clinics, no hospitals, no supplies in hospitals, no access to any existing clinics**
- **destruction of infrastructure—lack of clean water, interrupted food supply, crop loss**
- **reproductive health—not a priority in humanitarian crisis response; in addition, rape has been used as a weapon of war**
- **opportunistic infections—malaria, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections etc.**
- **landmines or cluster-bombs in residential and agricultural pathways**
- **loss of trust in figures of authority, including doctors**

What do Canadian healthcare workers need to know about the effects of war on people's health? Quite a lot, it turns out, especially as war has a way of not staying contained in one place. Refugees and immigrants have health needs that may not arise in an everyday practice. In addition, Canada is involved in the Afghanistan conflict, which affects not only those working for the military and aid agencies, but also their families. Moreover, the manufacture of weapons for conflicts leads to a proliferation of small arms available in general. War and violent conflicts have made health care a complex and global issue.

The above were some of the issues discussed at the continuing medical education day held at St Paul's University in Ottawa on March 30, 2007. Organized by the Physicians for Global Survival and the Champlain Immigrant Health Network, the sessions included Effects of Conflict on Children, Providing Preventive and Primary Care to Refugees, Recognizing and Responding to Health Needs of Military Families, and Advocating for a Change: Small Arms and the Culture of Violence. More than 70 physicians, medical students and other healthcare providers participated in the education day, which was accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

After introductions from the organizers, former Senator Landon Pearson gave the opening keynote speech on Health, Conflict and the Rights of the Child. Soon after taking her Masters of

Education in psychopedagogy in 1978, Pearson was Vice-Chair of the Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child (1979), during which time she edited the Commission's report. After heading the Canadian Council on Children and Youth during the 1980s, she became a Senator in 1994. She retired from the Senate in 2005, moving her work



to Carleton University, where she directs a Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights, and is an adjunct professor in the Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's Studies.

Landon Pearson asked if those who plan war ever take into consideration the effects of conflict on children. Does the end really justify the means? Children are affected both directly and indirectly by war; if they don't die from bullets and bombs, then they either die or become ill from contaminated water, malnutrition, and opportunistic infections. Displaced from homes, suffering family loss, they enter a spiral of failing health, with those under five the most vulnerable. For every child killed in armed conflict, three are injured or disabled. Add to that the lost childhoods of children who become soldiers. The effects of child-soldiering on health (HIV, for example) is matched only by the effects on mental well-being: the issue is not only getting children out

“ For every child killed in armed conflict, three are injured or disabled. ”

— Landon Pearson



< Photo, left: CME co-organizer Anne Gillies; above, left to right: President Dale Dewar and president-elect Sonia Singh; medical students Tara Nevins and Natalie Clavell; Presenter Doug Gruner and participant David Ponka; far right photo: former Senator Landon Pearson (2nd from right), in-coming PGS President Nancy Covington (far right), with CME participants.

of war, but also getting the war out of the children. While there are cultural differences between countries, such as women soldiers in Colombia feeling empowered, the loss of childhood

caused by child soldiering remains an issue.

Pearson concluded by asserting that the end does not justify the means. Children must be on the agenda now, not in the distant future. What can be done? Physicians can inform themselves of the situation these children came from, as well as speak up against armed conflict and its effects on children. She said, "The influence of physicians is immeasurable." ☺

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE WORKSHOPS

- How should school children be informed of the soldier-parent's death? What is timely and appropriate delivery of bad news?
- Is trauma always visible?
- How can we take the shame out of mental health? Embarrassment in talking about non-physical problems is cultural, yet both the Canadian military culture and refugees to Canada may share this feeling of shame.
- What needs must be met in cross-cultural healthcare?
- How are injuries from weapons different from those of past conflicts?
- Do healthcare providers have a responsibility to promote a culture of peace and try to prevent war?

Further Reading

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Z. Wu, M.J. Penning, and C.M. Schimmele, "Immigrant Status and Unmet Health Care Needs," *Canadian Journal of Public Health* (2005), 96(5): 369-73.

Stories for working with conflict refugees, teacher's guide: www.journeyofpeace.ca.

- Asked how physicians can respond to injuries from conflicts that use WMDs, workshop facilitator Tobey Audcent replied that we couldn't know this: "Our technical abilities in the area of conflict have outstripped our capacity to deal with their ensuing health impacts."
- When asked for one change that healthcare workers would make to their practice after what they'd learned at the conference, many answered that they would include a question about exposure to violence, conflict, and weapons as part of their routine patient history-taking.

Welcome

Jane Maxwell will be taking on the role of Executive Director of Physicians for Global Survival as of April 30, 2007. Although new to the field of disarmament, she says "It's a compelling issue, given today's conflicts, international terrorism and the re-emergence of nuclear proliferation as a global concern." Her interest in the issue was sparked in part by hearing Doug Roche's warning that "we are sleepwalking towards a nuclear catastrophe." Jane was drawn to the work of Physicians for Global Survival because of its long and highly respected history of working for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the prevention of war, out of its concern for global health.

Jane brings to the job 25 years of experience in international program management and in non-profit fundraising. Some of the organizations she has worked with include Oxfam Canada, the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF) of the Anglican Church of Canada, CUSO, the United Way of Greater Toronto, and DVA Navion Fundraising Consultants. For ten years she was the Co-ordinator of



the Co-op Program in International Development Studies at the University of Toronto at Scarborough. From project management to government relations, from human rights advocacy to revenue development, Jane brings a variety of skills and experience with which to shape the future of PGS.

Acknowledging that she has big shoes to fill, Jane has set herself some goals as the PGS Executive Director. Her first is to raise the level of awareness, of both the Canadian public and politicians at

all government levels. Jane explained, "At the end of the Cold War, with the advent of the so-called 'peace dividend,' the nuclear threat no longer appeared on peoples' radar screens. The public needs to realize that nuclear weapons are still with us, indeed are proliferating with the emergence of new nuclear states, and that gains in the non-proliferation treaty could be reversed." In raising the nuclear issue, Jane would also like to raise the profile of PGS as a key player in the struggle for peace, global health, and a sustainable environment. To do that, she wants to strengthen and grow the organization. She'll be looking for new sources of revenue, and enthusiastic medical student volunteers. She will work with the Board to identify new board members to replace those who are retiring. Together with the staff, she'll also be organizing a series of health-focused educational events aimed at physicians across the country and coordinating PGS's involvement in upcoming IPPNW campaigns. To carry out these ambitious plans, she'll need your support. We welcome Jane Maxwell to PGS. ☺

Space Garbage

(cont'd from page 6)

160 nations voted 'yes', and Israel abstained. The Chinese test may have been partly designed to counter this attitude and reinforce the international community's will to prevent an arms race in outer space and preserve peace for peaceful purposes. US policy may also deepen rifts between US and European space agencies and push Europe to cooperate more with Russia.

The Ballistic Missile Defense system also could contribute greatly to space debris, although the Missile Defense Agency tends to down-play this fact. The funding for a Space Test Bed seems to be diminishing, but may be receiving funds from classified portions of the budget. The lack of transparency is worrisome.

It is to be hoped that the present Canadian government will maintain Canada's strong position against the weaponization of space and will work to seek space securi-

ty based on international co-operation. At a recent forum in Ottawa, David Wright of the US-based Union of Concerned Scientists asked Canada to push for a ban on weapons in space since destruction of satellites could create enough debris to make space unusable. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty bans weapons of mass destruction in space, but not other forms of weapons. A space weapons treaty is an urgent need. Star Wars must remain in the realm of fiction. ☺

Peace Pledge Plan:

ONE EFFECTIVE WAY TO HELP BUILD A SAFER, HEALTHIER, MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

Supporters who make monthly contributions to Physicians for Global Survival provide stable funding for year-round public education and action to help build a healthier, safer and more peaceful world.

To join the **Peace Pledge Plan**, you simply pre-authorize a monthly deduction from your bank account or credit card. As a monthly supporter, your contribution to PGS is convenient, automatic and effective:

- ✓ You enable PGS to better plan activities in advance
- ✓ The organization's administrative costs are greatly reduced,

which means more funds go directly to public education and awareness programs, or into important campaigns on particular issues (like the Review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty or getting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty signed)

- ✓ You will no longer receive direct mail reminders from PGS, which reduces paper consumption
- ✓ It is easy to activate and more convenient than writing cheques
- ✓ You can spread your contribution out over the year, so that you hardly notice the regular deductions

- ✓ Should your situation change, you can cancel your monthly pledge at any time, simply by calling or emailing the PGS office at pgsadmin@web.ca

In addition to our twice a year newsletter, *Turning Point*, **Peace Pledge Plan** contributors receive a special Welcome Kit containing in-depth information on peace issues, as well as a decal and button you can use in your community to highlight the fact that you believe "Nuclear Weapons Are Bad For Your Health".

Please fill out the coupon below to join the Peace Pledge Plan and support PGS through monthly giving. Thank you.

**YES, I want to make a
SPECIAL GIFT FOR PEACE.**

Please accept my monthly contribution of:

- \$10 \$15
 \$20 or OTHER \$_____

OR

- I prefer to give \$_____ as a special one-time donation.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- My cheque is enclosed. (For the monthly *Peace Pledge Plan*, please mark cheque 'VOID'. For a one-time contribution, please make cheque payable to 'Physicians for Global Survival'.)

OR

- Please bill my credit card VISA MasterCard :

Card # _____

Expiry date _____

Name on card (please print) _____

Signature _____

My telephone #: _____

My email address: _____

An official receipt will be issued for income tax purposes. For the Peace Pledge Plan, receipts are issued each January for the full annual contribution.
Charitable registration #10784-2684-RR0001

PGS, 208-145 rue Spruce St., Ottawa, ON K1R 6P1

NEWS briefs

New generation of nuclear bombs

For the first time in two decades, the Bush administration recently selected the prototype design of a new U.S. nuclear warhead. Managers of the U.S. nuclear complex say the program, the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW), will lead to safer warheads that are more reliable and easier to maintain than existing warheads. Yet, U.S. officials affirm that the current U.S. stockpile is safe and reliable. Critics of RRW assert the program is unnecessary and could lead to a resumption of nuclear testing, which the United States halted in 1992. They also contend that if the United States renewed nuclear testing or developed warheads designed for new military missions, other countries might follow suit. (Arms Control Association www.armscontrol.org)

Launch on Warning System (LoW)

The launch on warning system, which has nuclear warheads poised to launch from the US and Russia within minutes of an electronic warning, could go off in response to a false warning. According to Alan Phillips, if a false warning is calculated cumulatively, then at merely 1% a year, the risk is about 1 in 6 over 30 years, 1 in 2 over 50 years. PGS and the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons arranged a meeting with members of the Disarmament and Nonproliferation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in January 2007. Steve Starr, who came from Missouri for the meeting, presented an alternative system to LoW, called Retaliatory Launch Only After Detonation (RLOAD). Robin Collins

of World Federalists addressed Canada's involvement in RLOAD; the consequences for Canada of a nuclear exchange would be catastrophic. While not perfect, RLOAD would prevent accidental nuclear war, and at best, would buy time to pursue nuclear disarmament.

Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)

Further to the campaign to have the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) consider ethical investing by MD Management, an article in *CMAJ* recently covered the issue. In "More Calls for Ethical Investing," which appeared on March 23, Laura Eggertson summed up the issue, starting with the motion of the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) of last May calling on MD Management to make ethical investments, particularly regarding not funding weapons manufacturers and taking into consideration environmental sustainability. Those arguing against SRI say there hasn't been any demand for it. That means more than the membership of the SMA and the 600 members of PGS need to make themselves heard on this issue. A similar issue has come up with the British, as *The Lancet* has asked their owner, Reed Elsevier, to stop hosting arms fairs. See www.cmaj.ca for these two articles, and the follow-up letters from readers.

UK Votes to Retain Nuclear Weapons

In mid-March the British Parliament passed a motion to spend CDN \$45 billion to renew its aging nuclear submarine system Trident. Once built the new fleet would last until 2050. This plan was strongly contested by British and international civil society. The rebellion from the backbench of the Labour Party was historic and the Government was forced to rely on Conservative support to get the vote through.

In response to PGS's letter of concern, the British High Commissioner in Ottawa wrote that "re-emergence of a strategic threat, emerging nuclear states and state sponsored terrorism requires the UK to retain nuclear weapons." If security were to be measured in the numbers of nuclear weapons possessed by a country, the US should feel the most secure in the world, and it does not, replied PGS president Dale Dewar.

The IPPNW affiliate in the UK, Medact stated: "Firstly, renewing Trident will remove any moral authority the UK may have in trying to persuade non-nuclear weapons states not to acquire nuclear weapons. Secondly it will contribute to a new arms race which will bring with it all the dangers of the old. The result is the renewed threat of death, injury, sickness and destruction of unimaginable scale". (www.medact.org) ☺

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
PGS National Office
208-145 Spruce St, Ottawa K1R 6P1

