

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

FOR OUR EARTH: Join the Movement to Stop Kinder Morgan Forum In Nelson April 23, 2018 Indigenous Speakers

People from across the Southern Interior will gather in Nelson on April 23rd to oppose the expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline and to support First Nations Coast Protectors in their call for the conservation of pristine lands along the pipeline route and the West Coast.

The Forum, called For Our Earth: Join the Movement to Stop Kinder Morgan is being organized by a coalition of local groups supporting safe methods of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. It is scheduled for 7-9 pm in the Nelson United Church sanctuary, at 602 Silica Street in Nelson, doors open at 6:30 pm.

Headliners are Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Joan Phillip of the Penticton Indian Band Council, and Garth Lenz, an internationally award winning environmental photographer who focuses on Canada's role in the ecosystems of the world.

Grand Chief Phillip asserts, "Now is the time to stand beside Indigenous people in support of our timeless struggle to defend Mother Earth. There is a battle being waged across the globe by Indigenous peoples and their allies demanding a safe, healthy world for future generations. This is about water versus oil and life versus death, ultimately about survival versus extinction."

Lenz states, "So large are the Alberta Tar Sands tailings ponds that they can be seen from space. It has been estimated by Natural Resources Canada that the industry to date has produced enough toxic waste to fill a canal 32 feet deep by 65 feet wide from Fort McMurray to Edmonton, and on to Ottawa. The oil produced from the tar sands produces more greenhouse gas emissions than any other oil - one of the reasons why it's called the world's dirtiest oil. It's also a reason why it's the largest and fastest growing single source of carbon in Canada, and a reason why Canada is now number three in terms of producing carbon per person. The tailings ponds are the largest toxic impoundments on the planet."

The Forum will open with a welcoming prayer by Indigenous activist and spiritual advisor Billy Jo Bray of Keller, Washington.

Environment coordinator and forum organizer



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(From last column) **Stop Kinder Morgan**

Nadine Podmoroff of Castlegar says, "The Tar Sands is the biggest industrial emitter of carbon in the world, and the largest contributor of oil to the US military. I don't want to imagine what it would be like if mining capacity and tanker traffic is tripled or when the super tankers spill bitumen on our beautiful and vibrant West Coast. I've committed to do all I can, based on conscience to make sure these things don't happen. It's our duty."

The Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project will run from the tar sands of Alberta to Burnaby, B.C. The \$7.4 billion project is going ahead despite the objections of the provincial government, cities of Vancouver, Victoria and Burnaby, BC landowners, urban property owners, environmentalists and First Nations of Canada. Expected to be completed in 2019, it will have anticipated disastrous global effects on the environment, climate, water and human health and well being.

The coalition's aim is to raise awareness and to carry out strategic actions within our region and along pipeline routes. The intent is to build a community of support for direct action that will build over time. Along with the renowned speakers, a live musical slide show of Kootenay Pipeline Free actions will be presented at the Forum, as well as a fund-raising silent auction.

For Our Earth invites the community to share the Coast Protectors donation link in order that its fund-raising campaign grows. Millions of dollars are needed for the First Nations people to enable them to continue their struggle in court and in the media. To donate to Stop Kinder Morgan, go to: <https://www.coastprotectors.ca/donate>
For more information on Coast Protectors go to: <https://www.coastprotectors.ca>

A non violent strategic action training event will follow the For Our Earth Forum on Saturday, April 28th at 12 noon at the Senior Citizens Nelson Branch No. 51, 717 Vernon Street.

To join the coalition, volunteer or for more information contact: nadia@netidea.com 250-608-0773

Further info on Action training or to donate to the Silent Auction contact: sandra@netidea.com 250-352-9871.

Suggested donation for the Forum is \$15-20, students and youth free, and for the non-violent strategic action training \$20.

Groups in the coalition include The Council of Canadians (Nelson and Kelowna chapters), the Kootenay Region Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada, the Boundary Peace Initiative, the Canadian Peace Congress, KAIROS, the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition, the West Kootenay EcoSociety, the Kootenays for a Pipeline Free B.C., the Nelson United Church and the MIR Center for Peace at Selkirk College.

Spread us on Face book:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/153636251963537/>



By: Canadian Boat to Gaza

Dear friends,

It was the middle of the night on May 31st, 2010. I was staring at a google map on my laptop. On it, a dot was slowly inching across the Mediterranean Sea. At 4:00 in the morning, the dot stopped moving. That dot was tracking a convoy of ships staffed with hundreds of volunteers from Cyprus to Gaza, in an attempt to break the Israeli-Egyptian blockade on the Gaza Strip. It wasn't the first convoy but it was the biggest one to attempt to do so. Its intention was clear -- to reach the oft-forgotten Palestinian territory under Israel's occupation and break the inhumane blockade imposed on it by land, sea, and air.

I remember those anxious hours, waiting for news, any news on why the dot stopped moving. In previous attempts to break the blockade, the Israeli navy stopped the ships and arrested those on board, deporting them after interrogation and confiscating or destroying their boats and supplies. This time I had a bad feeling. At 8:00 in the morning a message finally came through. The Israeli navy intercepted the boats, invaded, and attacked. All in international waters, all against international law. Nine people were killed (a tenth died later from wounds) and dozens injured.

Working as a journalist in Israel/Palestine I've frequently covered Israeli army attacks, but rarely have the victims been international activists. That attack led to international pressure, media attention, and a chain of events that had further complicated Israel's fraught relationships with Turkey and Egypt. It had direct consequences on the ten families who lost loved ones, on thousands of activists, and on millions of Palestinians who saw that international civil society has not abandoned them in their struggle for basic freedoms. It also had an impact on millions of Israelis for whom Gaza is not a real place where people struggle to live normal lives but a conversation piece, a hellish fantasy behind huge walls, tucked away only to be periodically invaded as "punishment" for rocket attacks. In Hebrew "go to Gaza" is a slang insult, akin to "go to hell." By noon of that day in May 2010, hundreds of Israelis gathered on the streets and chanted horrible hate-filled slogans aimed at the activists and Palestinians at large. The incident highlighted not only that the Occupation must end but also the extent of dehumanization and collective denial that would need to be overcome if we as Israelis are to live as equal citizens to Palestinians, in an open Middle East. Since then, year after year activists continue to fundraise for more convoys, for more ships, to collect donations of humanitarian aid, and to risk their lives against the Israeli Navy.

I don't know what will be the straw that will break the camel's back and that will finally bring to an end the brutal military occupation of the Palestinian Territories. It's been seventy years since two-thirds of the Palestinian people were displaced from their lands and fifty years since the Israeli army imposed martial law on those remaining in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. So long has the Occupation continued that its very existence has become a violation of international law.

No one can know the cumulative effect of thousands of steps taken collectively towards the end of injustice. As someone born in the repressive, insulated regime of the Soviet Union I do know that these steps make an impact. In 1989, against all predictions, the Berlin Wall came tumbling down.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Canadian Boat to Gaza

In 1990, against all predictions, I was one of over a million Jews freed to leave to Israel, escaping Soviet anti-Semitism. In 1993, again against all predictions, Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin shook hands on the lawn of the White House, starting the tumultuous and yet-unfulfilled peace process. I know that change can come, that it can be within our lifetimes, and I thank wholeheartedly the courageous volunteers of the Canadian Boat to Gaza and the Freedom Flotilla Coalition as they risk their lives for change to manifest.

Lia Tarachansky, Israeli-Canadian journalist & filmmaker

You can donate to Canadian Boat to Gaza online (canadaboatgaza.org/donate) or by postal mail. Make out cheque or money order to *Turtle Island Humanitarian Aid* and mail it to:

Canadian Boat to Gaza
PO Box 1950, London Stn. B
London, Ontario N6A 5J4
CANADA

(Note: like many of our sister organizations, we would prefer to move away from dependence on PayPal for online donations. At this point, we are pleased to accept e-Interac transfers from Canadian bank accounts, and we hope to announce other payment methods soon. Please e-mail us if you have questions about this).

Some (especially those who can benefit from a charitable tax receipt in the US) may wish to donate through the US Boat to Gaza page: <https://2018boatstogaza-nonviolenceinternational.nationbuilder.com/contribute>

In other parts of the world, please consider donating through one our other partner campaigns in the Freedom Flotilla: <https://sgf.freedomflotilla.org/donate>

Whether you can donate financially or not, please help us spread the word about our campaign:

- share our messages with your family, friends and/or work colleagues and encourage them to join our mailing list;
- send an endorsement message from your association, union, congregation or political party;
- organize and attend events to raise funds and awareness for our campaign;
- join a **Freedom Flotilla** campaign near you and encourage others to do so;
- follow us on the web, Face book, Twitter (see below), and (*new!*) **Instagram**, and share our posts widely.

Twitter: @CanadaBoatGaza @GazaFFlotilla
www.facebook.com/CanadaBoatGaza
www.facebook.com/BateauCanadienGaza
www.facebook.com/FreedomFlotillaCoalition

Canadian Boat to Gaza: www.canadaboatgaza.org email: canadaboatgaza@gmail.com

Bateau canadien pour GAZA: www.canadaboatgaza.org
courriel: canadaboatgaza@gmail.com

What is Earth Day, and what is it meant to accomplish?

A message from our president, Kathleen Rogers

Close to 48 years ago, on 22 April 1970, millions of people took to the streets to protest the negative impacts of 150 years of industrial development.

In the US and around the world, smog was becoming deadly and evidence was growing that pollution led to developmental delays in children. Biodiversity was in decline as a result of the heavy use of pesticides and other pollutants.

The global ecological awareness was growing, and the US Congress and President Nixon responded quickly. In July of the same year, they created the Environmental Protection Agency, and robust environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, among many.

One billion people

Earth Day is now a global event each year, and we believe that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.

It is a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees, clean up their towns and roads. Corporations and governments use it to make pledges and announce sustainability measures. Faith leaders, including Pope Francis, connect Earth Day with protecting God's greatest creations, humans, biodiversity and the planet that we all live on. Earth Day Network, the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, today announced that Earth Day 2018 will focus on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics along with global regulation for the disposal of plastics. EDN will educate millions of people about the health and other risks associated with the use and disposal of plastics, including pollution of our oceans, water, and wildlife, and about the growing body of evidence that decomposing plastics are creating serious global problems.

From poisoning and injuring marine life to the ubiquitous presence of plastics in our food to disrupting human hormones and causing major life-threatening diseases and early puberty, the exponential growth of plastics is threatening our planet's survival. EDN has built a multi-year campaign to **End Plastic Pollution**. Our goals include ending single-use plastics, promoting alternatives to fossil fuel-based materials, promoting 100 percent recycling of plastics, corporate and government accountability and changing human behaviour concerning plastics. (Continued next column)



(From last column) What is Earth Day

EDN's End Plastic Pollution campaign includes four major components:

- Leading a grassroots movement to support the adoption of a global framework to regulate plastic pollution;
- Educating, mobilizing and activating citizens across the globe to demand that governments and corporations control and clean up plastic pollution;
- Educating people worldwide to take personal responsibility for plastic pollution by choosing to reject, reduce, reuse and recycle plastics, and
- Promoting local government regulatory and other efforts to tackle plastic pollution.

Earth Day Network will leverage the platform of Earth Day and the growing interest in the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 as a catalyst for global action.

Cowardice asks the question - is it safe?

Expedience asks the question - is it politic?

Vanity asks the question - is it popular?

But conscience asks the question - is it right?

And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it BECAUSE it is right!

Martin Luther King Jr.

Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty.

The obedient must be slaves.

Henry David Thoreau

Our Mission

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

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

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

What's Up?

Come to the **For Our Earth: Join the Movement to Stop Kinder Morgan Forum on April 23, 2018** at the Nelson United Church Sanctuary from 7-9 pm. (Doors open at 6:30). Guest speakers: Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Joan Phillip Penticton Indian Band Councillor and Garth Lenz an internationally award winning environmental photographer who focuses on Canada's role in the ecosystems of the world. For information on details see the article on Page 1. See you there!

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Spring Conference begins at 9:30 am on April 14th in Kelowna. Contact Laura at 250 442 0434 or by email at L4peace@telus.net for more info.



Video of the Sept. 21, 2017 Walk the Drum and Peace Concert are available for \$10 a set. To order call Laura at 250-442-0434 or email at L4peace@telus.net

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

Response to Dan Metzger Nelson Star March 21 2018
By: Don Currie (March 22, 2018)

Dear Editor

In response to the letter to the editor of Dan Metzger, Nelson, March 21st 2018; "Why Selkirk's peace lecture series is including someone who squelches free speech."

I am confident that the MIR Centre at Selkirk College will deal appropriately with Mr. Metzger's assertions about Mr. Bray.

However in my opinion there is bigger question posed by Mr. Metzger's argument that in the name of free speech, wherever anti-fascism is discussed a platform should be provided for those who disagree.

Pro-fascists have had not only a platform for their views, but a whole historical era of political power extending from the early 1930's to their defeat in 1945 in World War Two to demonstrate what they stand for.

Before the German, Italian and Japanese Fascist Axis was defeated, fifty million died, including 23 million Russians, 7 million European Jews, and all those combatants and civilians from all of the countries of the anti-fascist alliance of WW2, including about 46,000 Canadian men and women who volunteered for the Canadian armed forces and laid down their lives from D Day to the defeat Hitler and his supporters in 1945.

I leave it to Mr. Metzger to explain what there is now left to discuss.

I would also suggest there is an obligation upon all of us who treat this subject, to declare which side of the debate we are on.

People, who are willing to give up freedom for the sake of short term security, deserve neither freedom nor security.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

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

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