

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

For Our Earth: Praise High Our Coastal Heroes

All are invited to attend FOR OUR EARTH: PRAISE HIGH OUR COASTAL HEROES, to be held Sunday **April 14th** from 10 A.M - 4 P.M. at the **Brilliant Cultural Center** at 1876 Brilliant Road in Castlegar. This inspirational event is framed to uplift, fund-raise and pay tribute to the courageous people who have been shouldering our transition to renewable energy and a healthier future by protecting our province from the expansion of tar sands pipelines and tankers.

The event will feature guest speakers Sundance Chief Reuben George of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Kat Roivas of the Chippewa Cree Nation, Romilly Cavanaugh, former environmental engineer of Trans Mountain Pipeline along with Sinixt speakers from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, a Doukhobor led multi faith prayer ceremony with emphasis on prayers for Mother Earth, a vegetarian pot luck luncheon, live music, display tables and a silent auction fundraiser for Protect the Inlet and Coast Protectors.

FOR OUR EARTH invites all to graciously contribute to and participate in the silent auction and to share the protectors' donation links with your contacts and on social media so that the campaign continues to grow. Our Coastal heroes continue the struggle daily in court and in the media so all heartfelt contributions are much appreciated.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip affirms, "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."

To volunteer, donate to the silent auction or for further information, contact: nadia@netidea.com 250-608-0773

Please spread us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/403795560357523/> to

donate to the Watch house – Go To:

<https://protecttheinlet.ca/asp-products/donations/>

Or to donate to legal funds – Go To:

<https://stopkmelegalfund.org/> or to donate to the Coast

Protectors – Go To: <https://www.coastprotectors.ca/donate>

For more information Go To: <https://protecttheinlet.ca/> or www.coastprotectors.ca

Sponsored by: Kootenay Region Branch United Nations Association in Canada, Boundary Peace Initiative, BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Kootenays for a Pipeline Free BC, KAIROS and the Nelson Chapter Council of Canadians.

Canada can and must stand with the People

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and cc: Honourable Chrystia Freeland Minister of Foreign Affairs

Every day a growing number of Canadians go to sleep wondering if tomorrow Canada will be joining the US in a military attack on Venezuela.

The Canadian Peace Congress is aware that the Government of Canada is playing a big role in the orchestrated campaign to remove the democratically elected President and government of Venezuela and replace him with a right-wing party member that the majority of Venezuelans had not heard of prior to this attempted coup d'état; one that was not elected to any office even by his party cronies. Guaidó was trained in the USA in the infamous 'School of the Americas' that has spawned many leaders that have attacked their own people to further 'USA interests'. It is through the efforts of the USA, Canada and the Lima Group that this man has risen to power and is being foisted unto the people of Venezuela and the world.

We have listened carefully to the statements of the US President on Venezuela and are deeply disturbed by them. The course the USA administration has chosen violates the principles of international law and is aimed at turning the clock back in the countries across South and Central America where efforts have been made to overcome social and racial inequality.

We are even more disturbed that Canada, under your leadership Prime Minister Trudeau, is aligning itself with the right-wing regimes of the Lima group and the US administration, which are carrying on a long tradition of invading democratically elected governments in the Americas and around the world.

Venezuela is currently undergoing economic difficulties (not unlike parts of our own country) that are largely dependent on the export of oil. The sanctions instituted on Venezuela by the USA, the Lima Group and the EU is Economic Warfare, which is illegal under the UN Charter. Canada is a signatory to the Charter and therefore is in violation of International Law that recognizes the right to sovereignty, independence and self-determination. The response of the USA and Canada to wage economic war on Venezuela indicates that the USA and Canada do not care about the people and are only concerned with obtaining Venezuela's resources--particularly oil.

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(From page 1) **Canada can and must stand with the People**

We stand with the Red Cross and the UN in supporting the government of Venezuela in its rejection of the attempt to bribe the people of Venezuela with ‘aid’ and using Columbia and Brazil to do so. John Bolton, USA National Security Advisor intentionally, inadvertently or out of sheer arrogance, has let the cat out of the bag on the USA National Media Networks stating the aim is to take over the country using whatever means necessary.

People across Canada have spoken out in solidarity with the people of Venezuela and will continue to do so until Canada stops interfering in the internal affairs of the people of Venezuela. We the people are aware of the efforts of the Maduro government (and Chavez before him) to establish public housing, literacy, and national health care as well as the nationalization of oil for the benefit of all the people of Venezuela. We the people understand why President Maduro, his government and the military continue to stand firmly against this latest imperialist attack. Major Canadian trade unions have joined the call for Canada to get out and stay out of Venezuela.

What should the Government of Canada do now, at this eleventh hour before a bloody civil war or a foreign invasion, or both are launched? Canada must leave the Lima group. Canada needs to lift all economic sanctions and return to full normalization of relations with Venezuela but **not** interfere in the internal governance of Venezuela as well as all other nations it has become entangled with as a proxy for and in conjunction with the USA, the Lima Group and NATO. Canada must act for peace and social justice. Canada must not be advancing the interests of the USA in any form. Canadian resource companies must not be allowed to contravene the human rights of the people of Venezuela or any other nation, simply for profit at the expense of the general population as well as the Indigenous and Aboriginal people of any nation, including our own.

When Canada decides to once again act independently of the USA and other elitist organizations, it will regain the respect of the world. Canada can and must stand with the People rather than corporations, for the people of the world rather than the elite imperialistic forces that have moved us towards the brink of yet another war and the destruction of our planet. We respectfully call on you, Prime Minister to steer Canada towards true Peace, Social and Economic Justice and Equality through non-violence, respect, dignity and integrity.

Thank you for your attention. We would appreciate a response to our plea for peaceful living for all humanity.

Sincerely,

Laura Savinkoff Vice-President Canadian Peace Congress
Sent February 28, 2019



Canada’s dangerous stance and damaging sanctions against Venezuela

By: Tamara Lorincz

The Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) has organized **#HandsOffVenezuela** rallies outside Minister of Foreign Affairs’s Chrystia Freeland’s office in Toronto in January and February. VOW was joined by activists from the Canadian Peace Congress, the ALBA Solidarity Group, the Latin American Network and the Philippine Workers’ Collective. A letter and messages were delivered to the Minister to tell her that Canadians are opposed to Canada’s dangerous stance and damaging sanctions against Venezuela.

Canada is escalating the crisis in Venezuela by supporting Juan Guaido as the self-declared interim president in violation of the country’s constitution. Canada’s interference in Venezuela’s internal affairs is a violation of international law – the United Nations’ Charter, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Canada’s economic sanctions against Venezuela are illegal and are harming the people.

The Lima Group is not a solution to the crisis in Venezuela. The Lima Group is comprised of countries including the right-wing governments of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Honduras (2009 coup that Canada and US supported) and Mexico (at the time by President Peña Nieto) coordinating actions against the Maduro government. The Lima Group is an illegitimate body making decisions for the people of Venezuela and Canada should withdraw from it. At the Lima Group meeting in Ottawa in early February, the Canadian government denied press badges to Telesur and RT to cover the meeting. The final press conference was disrupted by protestors who got inside with press badges and unfurled a banner **#HandsOffVenezuela**.

Canada has used this model of regime change in the past – setting up the “Ottawa Initiative on Haiti” with France, the US and other countries in 2003 to orchestrate the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Jean Bertrand Aristide in Haiti in 2004. Read Yves Engler’s excellent piece “Canada’s ugly role in the US-led coup in Venezuela” in the *Canadian Dimension* that describes this shameful history and makes the links with Haiti:

<https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/canada-us-coup-venezuela>

February 23 was the International Day of Action in Solidarity of Venezuela and actions took place across Canada and around the world “No coup, No Sanctions, & No War in Venezuela.”

(<https://www.nowaronvenezuela.org/>). VOW and allies across the country are calling on the Government of Canada to support a UN- or Vatican-led diplomatic

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(From page 2) **Canada's dangerous stance** resolution with all political parties to solve the crisis in Venezuela. Mexico and Uruguay have also offered to mediate talks between the Maduro government and the opposition leaders.

At the recent emergency Security Council meeting, Caribbean countries and Cuba appealed for a peaceful resolution to the crisis and for the Zone of Peace in Latin America be respected. The Government of Canada should heed their call.

Tamara Lorincz

Member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

www.vowpeace.org



Savinkoff to speak at Conference

Dear Friends,

On March 30 the Regina Peace Council is holding a peace conference and noon hour rally to condemn NATO and celebrate 70 years of the World Peace Council and affiliated peace organizations. Laura Savinkoff, coordinator of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition and newly elected Vice-President of the Canadian Peace Congress, will speak about the need for a reinvigorated peace movement. She will be sharing the platform with international journalist Andre Vltchek who will be talking about NATO's legacy of war and aggression and David Gehl of the Regina Peace Council who will be addressing the need for a Canadian foreign policy based on peace. For more information call Ed Lehman 306-718-8010 or write edrae1133@gmail.com.

Demonstrations will be occurring on that date in advance of the US celebration of 70 years of NATO on April 4th.

Continued from last issue: The Minutes of the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference will run in a series. They were compiled by Laura Savinkoff from comprehensive notes by Beth Novokshonoff.

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference, October 27, 2018. At The Slavonic Senior Citizens Centre, Grand Forks, BC

KAIROS Kelowna: Roy stated that individual churches have had a lot of activity, but not specifically KAIROS related actions in Kelowna.

KAIROS Nelson: Hannah informed us Sandra is not well and therefore was unable to produce a report or attend.

KRUNA & USCC Working Groups: JJ explained that they continue to hold their annual events such as International Day of Peace and Hiroshima Day and a few others.

Hannah added that as a KRUNA member she attended and took part in a great event with the March and Rally in Castlegar for Take Back the Night. There was a wonderful First Nations presence with a beautiful circular hide on which were placed twigs and hopeful messages. These messages represented many women's voices. As well Laura Plotnikoff cut fabric in the form of a teardrop with the names and birth dates of the missing women and the date they disappeared. A Men's group took part in order to bring greater awareness about violence against women and stated that it is a man's problem not a woman's problem. An RCMP Constable urged that services should be expanded for women who suffer from abuse. Hannah agrees that we all need to work harder on this because one in three women suffers from some sort of abuse.

JJ asked if there are such men's groups in Grand Forks or Kelowna. Chris said she does not know of any formal groups in GF. Laura added that there was one previously but she is not aware of any at present but that does not mean one doesn't exist in some form. Hannah replied that one of the men in the Kootenay group is a Fire Chief so

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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.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit call

(250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email

L4peace@telus.net.

What's Up?

For Our Earth: Praise High Our Coastal Heroes on

Sunday April 14th from 10 A.M - 4 P.M. at the **Brilliant Cultural Center**

Voice your concern to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and your MP—Hands Off Venezuela. You can use the Canadian Peace Congress statement from this newsletter or write your own then send it to the address/email provided below.

Sample of email from an individual already sent:

Dear Sir:

Please stop recognizing an unelected president in Venezuela. This is an attempted Coup by the US government. Or as they like to do a “regime change.”

We need to adhere to International Law regarding sovereignty.

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 **250-444-0524** or **250-442-0434** or email 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.

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>

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Minutes Oct. 2018

(Continued from last issue)

Laura asked if there were any questions or comments on the submitted written report. JJ inquired if there were any groups that have been resurrected in Penticton, Cherryville or Vernon? And if so do they pay dues? Mark, Roy and Laura responded that there were no formal separate groups, just individuals who participate with the Kelowna Peace Group.

Discussions:

JJ reminded us that Mayors for Peace is still active and asked that we lobby our respective councils to get involved, just as Grand Forks was in the past and now with the new council we hope will be again. Also he spoke to the fact that Grand Forks is a Nuclear Free Zone.

Don Currie reported that he had circulated the statement on Korea and nuclear dangers to all local media but only the Valley Voice published it in its entirety.

JJ passed around a photo of a Peace Sign in Castlegar that KRUNA and Loretta (we do not have the last name) have been petitioning to get for several years.

Laura asked if there was any input on how we conduct our conferences, since it was topic raised at the Spring meeting and was referred for discussion today. There were no suggestions for any changes, meaning we will proceed as we have been doing.

Canadian Peace Congress: (Attachment #7)

A report was circulated by Laura prior to the conference. She explained that there are conference calls every couple of weeks. For the last few months the calls have been more frequent as we head into the convention. She will circulate the Financial Report when it is complete, following the convention (*the decision at Convention was that only members receive the Financial Report; it is not to be posted on any communications that are in the public domain; therefore the CPCCon financial report will only be shared within the BCSIPC membership*).

JJ asked if there is any representation from labour on the board of the CPCCon. Laura said that there is no official participation from Labour Unions at this time.

A Resolution to the CPCCon naming Laura as the BCSIPC delegate to Convention was moved by JJ and seconded by Don; the resolution was passed unanimously. (Attachment #9)

JJ stated that the Canadian Peace Congress is the only National group we are aware of, since the demise of the Canadian Peace Alliance as a functioning entity.

Laura explained that the outgoing Executive is recommending to the incoming Executive that membership dues need restructuring and simplification—for the BCSIPC this will mean that our dues will go from \$25/year to \$100/year as an Associate/Affiliate Member group rather than as an individual. All agreed that this will not be a big burden to the BCSIPC since our internal annual dues will cover this cost.

(More next issue)