

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

Peace In! Peace Out!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Boundary Peace Initiative is hosting a great event on September 20th to 21st in support of International Day of Peace. This is the day that the world gathers to call for Peaceful Resolution to violence, abuse, all forms of conflict and of course war. Musicians, entertainers, artists, and speakers will gather for a 24-hour event at the Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ (Doukhobor) Community Center in Grand Forks, BC beginning at 4 pm on September 20th until 4 pm September 21st. We invite you to attend in person or online (details on live-stream access will be available soon).

Performers from Fort St. James, Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Prince George and other regions of B.C. and even from Missoula, Montana are confirmed. A wide variety of entertainers and speakers from the Boundary, Kootenay and Okanagan will be here as well. Grand Chief Stewart and Joan Phillip are coming and a few Sinixt elders as well and will be joined by local First Nations and Métis. Some B.C. Government Cabinet Ministers and MP Richard Cannings have expressed the desire to join us. Boundary Drama and Musical troupes, the Grand Forks Choral Society, a Doukhobor Choir, will be joined by musicians, singers, dancers, and so much more.

Admission is by donation. We encourage you to make bids at the silent auction, on line items and through a few interesting and fun filled ways happening throughout the 24 hours. The information tables will give you the opportunity to learn about other actions and groups as well.

We are raising funds so we're more able to educate each other on local and global issues affecting us all. We will be more able to organize conferences with international activists, host events and programs that can change the tsunami of violence threatening our very existence.

This 24-hour variety show came into being after Dave Soroka lost his son to an overdose in 2018. Dave felt the need to honour Tyler's support of the BPI. An event to honour this young man's passion for peace, socio-economic justice and environmental sustainability that will inform and be fun at the same time came into being. Peace In! Peace Out! is that vehicle of honour and Tyler's legacy. (Continued next column)

(From last column) Peace In! Peace Out!

To make this happen we need your help. We need volunteers. We need donations prior to the event to ensure we have enough funds to cover costs. We need donations at the event to ensure all our combined efforts speak to our joint commitment to be part of the solution.

For information, to volunteer and donate call Laura at 250-442-0434 or 250-444-0524 or email L4peace@telus.net.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
Laura Savinkoff
Peace In! Peace Out!

Hong Kong protests are part of the US/NATO campaign to destabilize the People's Republic of China

Issued by the Executive,--Canadian Peace Congress, July 10, 2019

The recent violent protests in Hong Kong have focussed on the alleged unfairness of a proposed law permitting the extradition of criminal suspects for crimes committed elsewhere on the Chinese mainland. The protest organizers claim that the extradition agreement would be used to target "activists" in Hong Kong opposing Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong. But the proposed extradition law is similar to that existing between provinces in Canada, the United States and most other countries.

The extradition issue is but a pretext for a much darker political objective – to destabilize the People's Republic of China and to negate Chinese sovereignty.

In 1997, Britain was forced to end its colonial rule of Hong Kong where democracy was non-existent. The reuniting of this city with the rest of the country was a victory for Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as a blow to colonialism everywhere. But British and U.S. imperialist circles hoped they could turn this setback into a strategic asset by using Hong Kong as a 'Trojan horse' – a base from which to undermine the economic and political foundations of socialism in China.

Almost at once, millions of dollars came to be funnelled to various Hong Kong based NGOs, trade unions, student groups, academic think-tanks and other 'civil society' organizations, many of which have been involved in organizing and supporting the current wave of protests.

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(From page 1) **Hong Kong protests**

Much of this funding comes directly from the British and U.S. governments and to a lesser extent Canada and other NATO countries. Other ‘donations’ have been channelled through the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Freedom House and some other unofficial extensions of the leading imperialist powers. This is the historical and political context within which the current round of protests must be understood.

Such is the real ‘hidden hand’ behind the events which have shaken Hong Kong in recent weeks. The intention was to provoke the Hong Kong and Chinese authorities into responding forcefully, especially after the criminal attack on, and trashing of the Hong Kong legislature, the posting of British and colonial flags, etc. Remarkably, the local police and authorities have shown incredible restraint. What would be the reaction of Canadian authorities to a similar attack on Parliament Hill?

The Hong Kong protests are not isolated events. Rather, they are part-and-parcel of a wider strategy to destabilize China, to foment unrest and undermine the political rule of the Chinese Communist Party. The US/NATO axis seeks to weaken and discredit China’s prestige and influence internationally, to stunt its economic advance, and safeguard continued Western imperialist hegemony of the entire world. This anti-China strategy includes the US/NATO military build-up in East Asia, Trump’s ‘tariff war’, and the intensifying propaganda campaign against China, all of which are creating a dangerous threat to world peace. The Canadian Peace Congress is also alarmed by the recent actions of the Canadian government, beginning with the arrest and impending extradition of Huawei Executive Meng Wanzhou, which have contributed to the serious deterioration in Canada-China bilateral relations.

The Canadian Peace Congress urges all Canadians to consider carefully the sub-text of the Hong Kong developments, and not be misled by mainstream media coverage into supporting western-inspired violence in Hong Kong and the broader campaign of anti-China manoeuvres and provocations. Instead, we call on Canada and its US/NATO allies to end blatant interference in the internal, sovereign affairs of the People’s Republic of China, which is an explicit violation of international law and the UN Charter.

So many people live within unhappy circumstances and yet will not take the initiative to change their situation because they are conditioned to a life of security, conformity, and conservatism, all of which may appear to give one peace of mind, but in reality, nothing is more damaging to the adventurous spirit.

Christopher McCandless

(Continued from July Issue) **Report to the BCSIPC on Calgary School Presentation**

So, when the Regina Peace Council asked me to speak at their conference I thought what a great opportunity. I could drive to Calgary and fly from there to Regina. The arrangements were made with the teachers (I found out it was Grade 1 & 2 class with two teachers) for April 8th.

I was a bit nervous as to how to approach this talk, especially not knowing the make-up of the class or the general attitude of the parents or the teachers even. Given this is Calgary in the most conservative region of the country I did not want to get the children into trouble with their parents nor the teachers with their bosses. So I worried and then decided I would do my best and see how things rolled out.

The day arrived so Tatiana, Polya (my daughter) and I went to school—three generations of peace activists. We were first on the program for the day. I looked around and saw 44 children with only about 6 Caucasian faces; the rest represented the world in all its diversity and beauty. The teacher sat the children in a circle on the floor about 5 feet away. I noticed one little boy well away from everyone but did not think much more about it at the time. Tatiana was given, by the teacher, the privilege of introducing me, her Grandmother, her Baba. The teacher asked what the children should call me and I said Baba, of course. They all chuckled and called out Hi Baba.

We had set up a flip chart so Polya could note down what these precious little ones would be saying. I began with a quick dip into how war actually hurts not only men and women but children and animals and the planet. I then spoke to the fact that we are taught in schools and at home to be nice to each other and not hurt each other—they all agreed. I noted that they do represent the world and how wonderful that is.

The next stage was to ask them what they thought Peace was and how to get there. Well, that woke them up for sure. Tatiana offered that peace is when we don’t kill or hurt others. And as Polya noted this on the flip chart more hands flew up. Tatiana helped me with names and the offerings were profound and thoughtful and inspiring. They talked about being mindful of what surrounds us, being kind, sharing so all can have a place to live and food to eat, giving of ourselves to help others all the time—well you get the picture—but this is coming out of the minds of 6 & 7 year olds whom too often adults dismiss as not knowing or caring about anything except playing.

I then talked a bit about death to put the effects of war in context because often it is an intellectual exercise to evaluate what war is when you have not experienced it. I use the recent death of Tatiana’s Deda (Grandfather)

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(From page 2) **Report to the BCSIPC on Calgary School Presentation**

as a means to explain the grief and pain of losing a loved one and related it to the fact that children in so many countries at war lose either one or both parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, other family members as bullets and bombs fly about. And then that opened a flood of responses for many in this class have mourned the loss of a family member to illness but then one little boy from Nigeria said he worries about his family in Nigeria because there is war there; another worries about family in India; others began to express their worry and concern about family in other parts of the world where bullets and bombs fly about all the time. Many children began to weep, not out of fear but out of compassion for friends and themselves. The little boy in the back (I later learned that this boy is Autistic) raised his hand and shared a bit of his worry as well and then I noticed that this little boy had moved closer into the circle and then realized the whole circle had come closer and was now at my feet.

Tatiana then asked me to explain about Nagasaki. By this time I realized these little ones could handle the truth, maybe even better than adults. So I explained that there are weapons, called nuclear weapons, that not only kill right away but actually vaporize so that only a burnt in shadow is left on walls and sidewalks; that there are people still living with the effects of those two bombs and babies being born with cancers and all kinds of sickness and funny shaped arms and legs and other things. I also explained that these weapons are still there and could be used at any time and if they are the whole world would die. I again noticed that boy in the back moving even closer. Around me I saw many cheeks with tears rolling down.

To lighten it up a bit now I told them that there are people all over the world who work hard to stop all the killing and destruction. It is good to hear that you know that war is bad and that peace is the way to live. I asked them to join me in a chant that those of us who work for peace use all the time after I told them how to respond of course, 'What do you Want.'. Then I asked them to talk with their parents so they would take them to a peace event in Calgary where they could join in yelling this out for all to hear. It was awesome to hear 44 young voices raised for Peace Now. I bet someone out in the hall thought what is going on in there?

Now it was time to wind down for I could see the teachers needed to begin the rest of their day. An hour had passed so quickly but the children still wanted to share their thoughts. The evening before I had talked with Tatiana to see if she had any idea of what the class could do as a follow-up activity. And she thought it would be good to write a letter to the Prime Minister so he knew the children wanted peace and not war—that he knew it was time to stop the killing and the death.

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(From last column) **Calgary School Presentation**

I asked Tatiana to explain to her classmates this idea—we can cut out our handprints and put our name and age on them, put them into a box with a letter to the Prime Minister, she said. All the children shouted out agreement and the teachers agreed to help them. I reminded the teachers that mail to all MPs was free, which surprisingly they did not know.

I then presented a gift of a book supplied by the USCC to be used in the classroom for all the children this year and for the next ones coming into this classroom. I wanted to give the children a big hug but my arms just would not embrace them all at once so asked them to line up and come past so I could give each a hug. Which they did and as I hugged them I thanked them for being who they are. That little boy at the back of the room also came past and allowed me to hug him and he actually did hug me back.

After this was done the children went to their tables and for free time since it was almost recess. I spoke with the teachers and said that if they noticed any backlash from parents or school officials to please let me know and I would intervene and did say I would be willing to come back if they thought it would be helpful. Polya also offered to speak to this issue or during Cultural Days. The teacher thanked me and expressed they felt all would be well. I did stay 3 days more and there was no backlash to date, which is awesome. The teachers also said that when they get started on the project they will send me some pictures. This is still in the works but will get done before the end of this school year and once I have the pictures and a copy of the letter I will share it.

This was a real learning experience for me. These young minds and hearts are open to learning but they taught me a well. They gave me such hope for a better world and that all our work brothers and sisters, is worth it no matter

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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 LApeace@telus.net.

What's Up?

Hiroshima Day: August 6th in Castlegar @ Doukhobor Discovery Center @ 6:30 pm

Nagasaki Day: August 9th in Grand Forks at Gyro Park, across from Save-On-Foods **starting at 1:00 pm.** Special 7 year old guest from Calgary to speak.



The BPI hosts **Peace In! Peace Out!** Join us from 4 pm Friday, **September 20th** until Saturday, **September 21st** at the USCC Community Center in Grand Forks, B.C. Admission is by donation. To donate and/or volunteer please contact Laura at 250-444-0524 or by email at: L4peace@telus.net.

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>

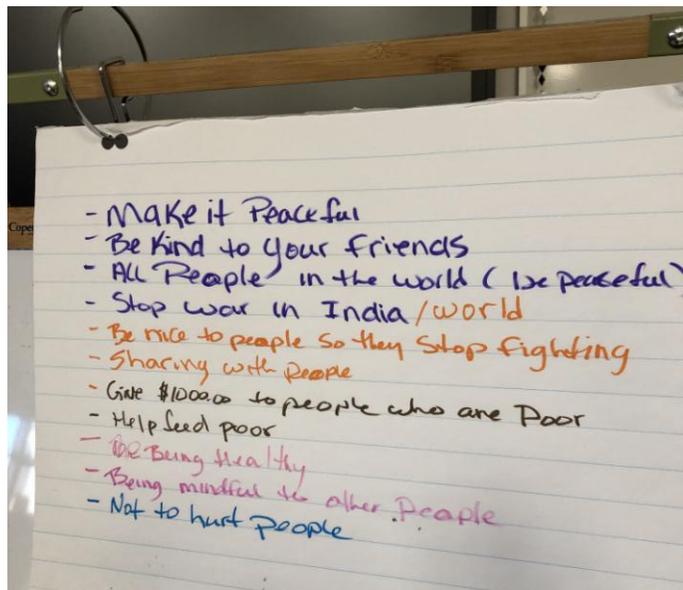
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how tired and worn out we get, not matter how frustrated we get, we must continue to share our knowledge and continue to learn as we go along as well We must open our minds to our youth and I mean all the children for they have much to teach us and remind us of. They do listen to what we say and they do watch us in our everyday actions and learn and then reflect that which we show.

Would I do this again? In a heartbeat! I will go to any classroom anywhere to spend time with children of all and any age. It is an experience that is so hard to define in limiting language. The joy and the compassion and the love of children is what the world needs to remember and to live by.

Ed. Note: Top photo is of the flip chart

Bottom photo of handprints & flipchart being readied to send to the PM



- Make it Peaceful
- Be kind to your friends
- All People in the world (be peaceful)
- Stop war in India/world
- Be nice to people so they stop fighting
- Sharing with people
- Give \$10000 to people who are poor
- Help feed poor
- Be healthy
- Being mindful to other people
- Not to hurt people

