

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are following up in the November issue with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as promised. This is taken from the Government of Canada website, therefore it an official statement. This is to inform all of us on what is contained in this document. To fit it all in we will have to add a Special Addition.

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The White Poppy

*Compiled from the Peace Pledge Union website:
{<https://www.ppu.org.uk/>}*

What do White Poppies stand for?

White Poppies are worn in the run-up to Remembrance Day every year by thousands of people in the UK and beyond (Ed. Note--Including Canada). White Poppies have been worn in this way for over eighty years. They are distributed by the Peace Pledge Union (PPU).

There are three elements to the meaning of White Poppies: they represent remembrance for all victims of war, a commitment to peace and a challenge to attempt to glamorize or celebrate war. (Ed. Note--In Grand Forks and the Boundary contact Laura at l4peace@telus.net or by phone at 250-442-0434 or cell at 250-444-0524. The BPI will have some for sale at New West Trading, in Grand Forks, for \$2 each.)

Remember all the victims of war

White Poppies recall all victims of all wars, including victims of wars that are still being fought. This includes people of all nationalities. It includes both civilians and members of armed forces. Today, over 90% of people killed in warfare are civilians.

In wearing White Poppies, we remember all those killed in war, all those wounded in body or mind, the millions who have been made sick or homeless by war and the families and communities torn apart. We also remember those killed or imprisoned for [refusing to fight and for resisting war](#).

We differ from the Royal British Legion, who produces Red Poppies. The Legion says that [Red Poppies are to remember only British armed forces](#) and those who fought alongside them. (Ed. Note--The same applies to the Canadian Legion.)

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We want to remember British (*Ed. Note--and Canadian*) military dead, but they are not the only victims of war. We also remember, for example, civilians killed in the bombings of London, Coventry and Belfast, and in the bombings of Dresden, Hiroshima, Baghdad and Kabul. (*Ed. Note—and the list goes on and on.*)

Stand up for peace

White Poppies symbolise the conviction that there are better ways to resolve conflict than through the use of violence. They embody values that reject killing fellow human beings for whatever reason. Nearly 100 years (Ed. Note—it is actually now 100 years) after the end of the “**war to end all wars**” we still have a long way to go to put an end to a social institution that even in the last decade has contributed to the killing of millions.

From economic reliance on [arms sales](#) to [renewing and updating all types of weapons](#), the UK (*Ed. Note—Canada as well*) government contributes significantly to international instability. The outcome of recent military adventures highlights their ineffectiveness and grim consequences.

The best way to respect the victims of war is to work to prevent war in the present and future. Violence only begets more violence. We need to tackle the underlying causes of warfare, such as poverty, inequality and competition over resources. A temporary absence of violence is not enough. Peace is much deeper and broader than that, requiring major social changes to allow us to live more co-operatively.

Challenge militarism

A message originally associated with Remembrance Day, after the First World War, was “never again”. This message slipped away. In response, White Poppies were developed in 1933 by the Co-operative Women's Guild to affirm the message of “**no more war**”.

Many of the activities around Remembrance Day are detached from any meaningful attempt to learn the lessons of war. Arms companies allow their staff to pause work for the two minutes' silence. [Politicians who plough billions into nuclear weapons lay wreaths at the cenotaph](#). Arms dealers sponsor Remembrance events even while their work makes war more likely.

In 2014 for example, the British Legion Young Professionals' ball was sponsored by Lockheed Martin, one of the world's largest arms companies. Lockheed Martin plays a major role in manufacturing the Trident nuclear weapons system. Each Trident missile is capable of

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killing far more people than the 888,000 people represented by the Red Poppies that were displayed at the Tower of London at the time.

Working for peace is the natural consequence of remembering the victims of war. If, for example, we were remembering the victims of road accidents, we might well do so by working to prevent further road accidents. This logic, which would apply in other areas of life, is rejected by those who seek to misuse Remembrance Day to promote **militarist values that only make war more likely.**



Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom

What is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms sets out those rights and freedoms that Canadians believe are necessary in a free and democratic society.

The Charter is one part of the [Canadian Constitution](#). The Constitution is a set of laws containing the basic rules about how our country operates. For example, it states the powers of the federal, and provincial and territorial governments in Canada.

How does the Charter work with other Canadian laws?

The Constitution is the supreme law of Canada; all other laws must be consistent with the rules set out in it. If they are not, they may not be valid. Since the Charter is part of the Constitution, it is the most important law we have in Canada.

However, the rights and freedoms in the Charter are not absolute. They can be limited to protect other rights or important national values. For example, freedom of expression may be limited by laws against hate propaganda or child pornography. Section 1 of the Charter says that Charter rights can be limited by law so long as those limits can be shown to be reasonable in a free and democratic society.

Who does the Charter protect and what rights are protected?

Any person in Canada – whether they are a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident or a newcomer – has the rights and freedoms contained in the Charter. There are some exceptions. For example, the Charter gives some rights only to Canadian citizens – such as the

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Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom

right to vote (section 3) and the right “to enter, remain in and leave Canada” (section 6).

History of the Charter

The Charter came into force on April 17, 1982. One section of the Charter, section 15, came into effect three years after the rest of the Charter, on April 17, 1985, to give governments time to bring their laws into line with the equality rights guaranteed in section 15.

Section 16.1 was added to the Charter in 1993. It makes clear that the English-speaking and French-speaking communities of New Brunswick have equal rights, and that the Government of New Brunswick has a duty to protect and promote those rights.

Before the Charter came into effect, other Canadian laws protected many of the rights and freedoms that are now included in it. One example is the [Canadian Bill of Rights](#), which Parliament enacted in 1960. It applies to legislation and policies of the federal government and guarantees rights and freedoms similar to those found in the Charter. However, the *Bill of Rights* is not part of the Constitution of Canada.

For decades, the Charter has been the source of change, progress and the affirmation of our society's values. Canadian courts have rendered hundreds of decisions in which they apply the Charter to bring Canadian laws into line with the principles and values of Canadian society.

For example:

- With respect to language rights, the Charter has reinforced the rights of official language minorities.
- With regard to equality rights, the Charter has led to the recognition and enforcement of the rights of a number of minority and disadvantaged groups.
- In criminal matters, the Charter has clarified the state's powers with respect to the rights of the accused.

Part II – Understanding the Charter

This part of the guide sets out the actual text of each section of the Charter, followed by an explanation of its meaning and purpose.

- Guarantee of rights and freedoms – section 1
- Fundamental freedoms – section 2
- Democratic rights – sections 3 to 5
- Mobility rights – section 6
- Legal rights – sections 7 to 14
- Equality rights – section 15
- Official languages of Canada – sections 16 to 22
- Minority language educational rights – section 23
- Enforcement – section 24
- General – sections 25 to 31
- Application of Charter – sections 32 and 33
- Citation – section 34
- Constitution Act, 1982–section 52

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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

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Guarantee of rights and freedoms – section 1

1. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

The Charter protects those basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians that are considered essential to preserving Canada as a free and democratic country. It applies to all governments – federal, provincial and territorial – and includes protection of the following:

- fundamental freedoms, democratic rights
- the right to live and seek employment anywhere in Canada
- legal rights (life, liberty and personal security)
- equality rights for all
- the official languages of Canada
- minority language education rights
- Canada's multicultural heritage
- Indigenous peoples' rights

The rights and freedoms in the Charter are not absolute. They can be limited to protect other rights or important national values. For example, freedom of expression may be limited by laws against hate propaganda or child pornography.

Fundamental freedoms – section 2

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:
 - a. freedom of conscience and religion;
 - b. freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
 - c. freedom of peaceful assembly; and
 - d. freedom of association.

Under section 2 of the Charter, Canadians are free to follow the religion of their choice. In addition, they are guaranteed freedom of thought, belief and expression. Since the media are an important means for communicating thoughts and ideas, the Charter protects the right of the press and other media to speak out. Our right to gather and act in peaceful groups is also protected, as is our right to belong to an association like a trade union.

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These freedoms are set out in the Charter to ensure that Canadians are free to create and express their ideas, gather to discuss them and communicate them widely to other people. These activities are basic forms of individual liberty. They are also important to the success of a democratic society like Canada. In a democracy, people must be free to discuss matters of public policy, criticize governments and offer their own solutions to social problems.

Even though these freedoms are very important, governments can sometimes limit them. For example, freedom of expression may be limited by laws against hate propaganda or child pornography because they prevent harm to individuals and groups.

Democratic rights – sections 3 to 5

- Democratic rights of citizens – section 3
- Maximum duration of legislative bodies – section 4
- Annual sitting of legislative bodies – section 5

Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Charter contain rules that guarantee Canadians a democratic government.

Section 3 - Democratic rights of citizens

3. Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein.

Section 3 guarantees to all Canadian citizens the right to be involved in the election of their governments. It gives them the right to vote in federal, provincial or territorial elections, along with the right to stand for public office themselves.

Some limits on these rights may be reasonable, even in a democracy. For example, the right to vote or stand for election is limited to Canadians 18 years of age or older.

Section 4 - Maximum duration of legislative bodies

4. (1) No House of Commons and no legislative assembly shall continue for longer than five years from the date fixed for the return of the writs at a general election of its members.

Continuation in special circumstances

- **(2) In time of real or apprehended war, invasion or insurrection, a House of Commons may be continued by Parliament and a legislative assembly may be continued by the legislature beyond five years if such continuation is not opposed by the votes of more than one-third of the members of the House of Commons or the legislative assembly, as the case may be.**

It is a basic principle in a democracy that a government must consult the voters and stand for re-election at regular intervals. Section 4 states that no Parliament or legislative assembly can continue to sit for longer than five years. Only under extraordinary circumstances, such as a war or national emergency, may a government stay in office for a longer period.

Section 5 - Annual sitting of legislative bodies

5. There shall be a sitting of Parliament and of each legislature at least once every twelve months.

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WHAT'S UP?

Get your White Poppy at New West Trading in Grand Forks for a Toonie (\$2.00) to support the Boundary Peace Initiative. This year, again due to Covid-19, display venues are not available yet, except for New West Trading. Let's look forward to the time when the virus will be under control and we can get back to actively being visible in our struggle for a peaceful and equitable world where true justice and non-violent living prevail.

Indeed, conceit, arrogance and egotism are the essentials of patriotism.

Emma Goldman

Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral.

Paolo Freire

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>

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles 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 an affiliate of Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Pledge Union, Stop Ecocide Canada, Abolition 2000 & CNANW and works with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

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Another basic democratic principle is that a government must explain its actions to the people. Section 5 of the Charter makes it clear that Parliament and the legislative assemblies must hold a session at least once a year. This guarantees that elected members and the public have a chance to question government actions on a regular basis.

Mobility rights – section 6 Mobility of citizens

6. (1) Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in and leave Canada.

Rights to move and gain livelihood

- **(2) Every citizen of Canada and every person who has the status of a permanent resident of Canada has the right:**
 - a) **to move to and take up residence in any province; and**
 - b) **to pursue the gaining of a livelihood in any province.**

Limitation

- **(3) The rights specified in subsection (2) are subject to:**
 - a. **any laws or practices of general application in force in a province other than those that discriminate among persons primarily on the basis of province of present or previous residence; and**
 - b. **any laws providing for reasonable residency requirements as a qualification for the receipt of publicly provided social services.**

Affirmative Action Program

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration in a province of conditions of individuals in that province who are socially or economically disadvantaged if the rate of employment in that province is below the rate of employment in Canada.

Section 6 protects the right of Canadian citizens to move from place to place, and subsection 6(1) ensures that all Canadian citizens are free to come and go as they please. Extradition laws place some limits on these rights; these laws state that persons in Canada who face criminal charges or punishment in another country may be ordered to return to that country.

Subsection 6(2) gives all Canadian citizens and permanent residents the right to move to, and live in any province or territory. They may also look for work or set up a business there.

Subsection 6(3) makes clear that provinces and territories may decide to give social benefits, such as welfare, only to persons who have lived in the province or territory for a certain period of time. They may also pass employment laws that require workers to have the necessary qualifications to practice their profession or trade.

In addition, subsection 6(4) allows a province or territory that has an employment rate below the national average to create programs that favour its own residents.

Legal rights – sections 7 to 14

- Life, liberty and security of person – section 7
- Search or seizure – section 8
- Detention or imprisonment – section 9
- Arrest or detention – section 10
- Proceedings in criminal and penal matters – section 11
- Treatment or punishment – section 12
- Self-crimination – section 13
- Interpreter – section 14

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