

EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2022

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022/>
All TOGETHER now!

This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to **preserve and protect our health, our families, our livelihoods... together, we must Invest In Our Planet.**

Because a **green** future is a **prosperous** future.

We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. **All in.** Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. **A partnership for the planet.**

And while there is still time to solve the climate crisis, time to choose BOTH a prosperous and sustainable future, and time to restore nature and build a healthy planet for our children and their children, **time is short.**

The Earth Day 2022 Theme is *Invest In Our Planet. What Will You Do?* Scroll down to find information on Earth Day events, activities, and what individuals and organizations can do to make a difference.

For Earth Day 2022, together, for everyone, everything, every day... #InvestInOurPlan

INVEST IN OUR PLANET AND BUILD A PROSPEROUS AND EQUITABLE FUTURE

"There's a way to do it better — find it." — Thomas Edison

Unless businesses act now, climate change will ever more deeply damage economies, increase scarcity, drain profits and job prospects, and impact us all.

Yet we already know that private sector innovation (with public support) accelerates the kind of rapid change we need, like nothing else. And it pays. Studies show a direct correlation between sustainable business practices, share prices, and business performance. Companies who develop

(Continued next column)

(From last column) EARTH DAY

strong Environment Social Governance (ESG) standards have better profitability, stronger financials, happier employees, and more resilient stock performance.

Smart companies are discovering that it is no longer a choice between going green and growing long-term profits — **sustainability is the path to prosperity.** So for both humanitarian and business reasons, it is imperative that companies of all sizes take action and embrace the benefits of a green economy. **Tell business leaders to get on board with a sustainable future or get out of the way.**

INVEST IN OUR PLANET AND BUILD HEALTHY CITIES, COUNTRIES, AND ECONOMIES

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." — Socrates

When it comes to climate change, money talks. Through regulations, incentives, and public/private partnerships, governments hold the keys to transform and build the green economy. Similar to the industrial and information revolutions, governments must incentivize their citizens, businesses, and institutions to build a resilient future. Ultimately, governments will empower green business practices as not only the ethical option but also the lucrative one.

For example, in the U.S., clean energy jobs provide earnings +25% above the national median wage, and outpace fossil fuel extraction/generation jobs by three-to-one, employing more Americans than middle or elementary school teachers, bankers, farmers, or real estate agents. And yet, **we still incentivize technology that is damaging our future growth.** Globally, the fossil fuel industry benefits from subsidies of \$11 million every single minute and over \$5.9 trillion annually (and rising).

Imagine the impact of shifting to policies and partnerships that build a renewable economy. Tell your government leaders to launch the sustainability revolution TODAY.

(Continued page 2)

(From page 1) **EARTH DAY**
INVEST IN OUR PLANET IT'S THE ONLY
HOME WE HAVE. WE NEED EVERYONE,
WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME

“Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world.” – Dolores Huerta

As individuals, we have the simple yet effective power to make our voices heard through our choices, our civic actions, and our personal interactions. What each of us does, and how we do it, has a huge ripple effect on our ecosystems, and on the pace of corporate and government action.

Gen Z is providing inspiration, with 45% having stopped purchasing certain brands because of ethical or sustainability concerns. We have the power to lobby for and support businesses that take active steps to protect our environment through their practices and climate-friendly investments, and fight against those that don't.

At a rally, a cleanup, with your vote, or your wallet, be heard however you are able. For all of us – today and for our future – let's INVEST IN OUR PLANET!

Wear White Poppies Now!
From: Teresa Gagné & Denis Laplante -
Vancouver Peace Poppies: www.PeacePoppies.ca

Dear White Peace Poppy Supporters,

We don't normally contact you except in the fall, but with the imminent risk of a catastrophic global conflict we feel compelled to reach out and ask all of you to:

- **wear your white poppies,**
- **speak up against increasing military spending**
- **raise your voice for a negotiated solution to the violent and appalling invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, and to the ongoing conflicts in Yemen, Ethiopia and elsewhere**
- **urge our government to be equally welcoming to refugees from all conflicts**

In discussions around the office coffee machine, the yoga studio, the classroom and the dining table we need to encourage people to challenge the beliefs, values and institutions that make war seem inevitable; and make the case for funding effective non-military means of dispute resolution.

UKRAINE:

With images of the suffering Ukrainians filling our screens, it is easy to buy into the idea that our only two choices are:

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **Wear White Poppies Now!**

- "standing by doing nothing and letting the bully win", or
- having NATO declare and enforce a 'no-fly zone' in Ukrainian airspace

But in addition to being a blatant territorial grab, the invasion of Ukraine is a reflection of the always complicated issues faced by states which include autonomous regions with different linguistic, ethnic or religious identities.

Resolving these issues means building trust, which can never be achieved through violent means—whether by NATO, Russia or Ukraine.

While urging the Canadian government, NATO and the USA to use all available non-violent means to bring about an immediate cease-fire, we also need a long-term commitment to taking the time to understand the fears, hopes and concerns on all sides, and an openness to making the hard choices needed to build a durable peace for Ukraine and all her neighbours. [The Pugwash Statement on the War in Ukraine](#) offers some suggestions for how this might be achieved.

The benign term 'no-fly zone' is a misleading and little-understood slogan. Enforcing it would require NATO/US forces to shoot down Russian planes over Ukraine and carry out air attacks on Russian ground targets. That would effectively be a declaration of war between NATO and Russia, a war which would quickly involve the rest of Europe. Since neither the US nor Russia would permit itself to lose without resorting to nuclear weapons, the entire world would be in grave peril.

REFUGEES:

Our only hope in stemming the growing tides of refugees lies in funding human needs worldwide and mediating quick resolution of conflicts. All refugees whatever their colour, religion or country of origin, deserve the warm welcome and support being offered to those fleeing Ukraine. Desperate refugees who have been waiting years in camps should not be pushed to the back of the line, because Ukrainians are 'more like us'.

YEMEN:

March 26, 2022 marks seven years of the brutal war in Yemen. A war that has killed over a quarter of a million people. A war that Canada has armed by sending over \$8 billion in weapons to Saudi Arabia since 2015, the year the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen began. Solidarity actions are planned across Canada to demonstrate, and call for an immediate end to Canadian military exports to Saudi Arabia and other repressive regimes. See [Canada Wide Peace & Justice Network - End the War in Yemen](#) .

{Ed. Note: The BPI does have some white poppies if you have misplaced yours. To get one or two call or email Laura at: 250-444-0524: L4peace@telus.net}

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
For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email: L4peace@telus.net.

Scotland's nuclear military bases at 'very great' risk of flooding due to climate change, report finds

Nuclear military sites in Scotland and the UK are at "very great" risk of flooding in the near future due to the impacts of climate change, according to a new report.

By: By Ilona Amos – The Scotsman

Findings suggest the Royal Navy's Faslane base on the Clyde may have to be closed down due to the high risk of inundation in coming years and the dangers that could present.

The Trident missile store at Coulport, also on the Clyde, and nuclear submarine scrap yard at Rosyth, on the Forth, are also likely to be affected by flooding due to a combination of rising sea level, higher rainfall and frequent storm surges, the analysis found.

Six further nuclear sites in England are also under threat.

Nuclear facilities at Rosyth, on the Forth, and Coulport, on the Clyde, will also be at risk from increasingly severe and frequent flooding due to the impacts of climate change - including rising sea level, greater rainfall and more regular storm surge events

And the bases are likely to be hit "sooner than expected".

The report, by Dr Paul Dorfman, a former Ministry of Defence (MoD) advisor and chair of the Nuclear Consulting Group think-tank, concludes "near-term climate change risk to nuclear is very great" and "UK nuclear military installations are on the front-line of climate change".

The document states: "Present UK coastal military nuclear infrastructure is profoundly vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise, storm intensity and storm surge, with inland nuclear facilities also facing inundation and flooding."

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Scotland's nuclear military bases

It warns there is also "significant risk" to stockpiles of military radioactive waste from "climate-drive extreme weather".

The report points out that previous predictions have underestimated the magnitude and pace of changes caused by rising world temperatures and claims government safety regulators have been "relatively complacent" about the threats in the past.

Dr Dorfman suggests "there exists the very real likelihood that global heating-driven climate impacts on the UK nuclear military enterprise are not being adequately costed, prioritised or regulated".

It states: "Put simply, sea-level rise is significantly faster than previously thought.

"Meanwhile, predicted changes to storm patterns affecting both storm surge and river flow will produce combined hazards, making current flood mitigation efforts increasingly obsolete."

The report includes a series of maps illustrating the scale of flood risks to military nuclear facilities, based on "conservative" and "median" estimates of sea level rises – which are forecast to reach up to 2.5m.

The MoD denies it has been complacent, while the UK Government's Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) maintains that flood protection at nuclear sites is "very high" and risks to safety "very low".

As well as the three nuclear sites in Scotland, the BAE Systems yard at Barrow; Sellafield nuclear complex in Cumbria; nuclear weapons plants at Aldermaston and Burghfield in Berkshire, Devonport naval base in Plymouth and the Rolls Royce submarine plant at Raynesway in Derby are also at risk.

To sum up, the report says: "Present UK coastal military nuclear infrastructure is deeply vulnerable to flooding from sea-level rise, storm intensity and storm surge, with inland nuclear facilities facing inundation and flooding.

"Ministry of Defence and nuclear regulatory climate impact mitigation efforts will become increasingly obsolete, and sooner than currently planned.

"Climate impact to nuclear will inevitably involve very significant expense for UK nuclear military installation operation, waste management, decommissioning, relocation or abandonment.

"In other words, UK nuclear military bases are set to flood."

War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small 'inside' group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes.

US General Butler Smedley, 1933

WHAT'S UP?

United Nations International Days of Action

April 4: International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

April 5: International Day of Conscience

April 6: International Day of Sports for Development of Peace

April 7: International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi in Rwanda

April 7: World Health Day

April 22: International Mother Earth Day

April 24: International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

April 26: International Chernobyl Disaster Day



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 the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Pledge Union, Stop Ecocide Canada, Abolition 2000 & CNANW and works with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Reflections on Black Lives Matter 3

By: Robert M. Macrae, Castlegar, BC

The Warmth of Other Suns (2010) by Isabel Wilkerson is exceptional. She took a leave from her career with the New York Times to invest years interviewing over twelve hundred people, travelling extensively, conducting detailed research, and then writing, winnowing, and revising. What she achieved is a defining story of the United States and its African-American citizens. It will be a classic.

Wilkerson examines America's Great Migration, the exodus of six million African-Americans over six decades from southern Jim Crow states to northern and western cities. There was neither central co-ordination nor a charismatic leader. The decision to migrate was personal, repeated millions of times, based on news from those who'd gone ahead, articles in clandestine newspapers, and horrific events such as encountering a mutilated body hanging from a tree or witnessing kin being whipped without cause. People abandoned ancestral homes both to escape Jim Crow and for economic betterment. Secretive recruiters toured the south, seeking laborers for northern factories. During WWII, people fled to well-paying military industries.

While *The Warmth of Other Suns* is written like a novel, it's a people's history, deliberately accessible to a wide audience. It traces the experiences of three migrants who flee the south from different locations at different times. They travel to different destinations and build different lives. Wilkerson shares their dreams, their achievements, their anguish and losses. Amidst these personal narratives, descriptions of life in America for millions of anonymous African-American are intertwined with stories of celebrated African-Americans such as Jesse Owens, Emmett Till, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Life in the north wasn't as the migrants had prayed. They were red-lined into segregated neighborhoods, shoehorned into unsafe tenements, and over-charged for shoddy goods. They earned less pay for work of equal value. Therefore, they saved less and had less to pass onto future generations. African-Americans were excluded from certain jobs and certain trade unions. They were excluded from certain social organizations and certain churches. Their children were excluded from certain schools. Violence and terror persisted. While a few returned south, most remained and endured rather than revisit the greater misery of Jim Crow. Incredibly, even with the segregation, lower wages, over-charging, exclusions, and hate, in aggregate, southern-born African-American migrants overcame and contributed significantly economically, socially, and culturally to their adopted communities.

Wilkerson published *The Warmth of Other Suns* in 2010 during Barack Obama's term as first African-American president. In her closing chapters, she is optimistic: oppression is lessening, it is safe for African-Americans to return to the south, and the self-evident truth that all people are created equal and endowed with unalienable rights is finally being realized.

She quotes Obama's inaugural address, "because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that, as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself ..."

In 2020 she published a sequel, *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, following Donald Trump's term as American president. In *Caste*, Wilkerson's optimism is largely extinguished as were the lives of Andre Hill, Manuel Ellis, Rayshard Brooks, Daniel Prude, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Atatiana Jefferson, Botham Jean, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many other African-Americans. Replacing her optimism is bitter realism: an inescapable caste system based on skin colour defines America. This deeply entrenched system persists and grossly disadvantages African-Americans as it has since 1619.

Wilkerson's work is outstanding in every dimension. Her eroded faith in the possibility of a just American society is deeply upsetting. Over the coming decades, will millions of white Americans embrace Civil Rights and personally decide not only to believe that black lives matter, but to act on that conviction, to march against racism, to support affirmative action, to lock arms with the oppressed, and to open their hearts and homes to their brothers and sisters?

Wilkerson eloquently describes the strength and resilience of the African-American migrants, "they found the will to press beyond the forces against them, and the faith in a country that had rejected them for so long. By their actions, they did not dream the American Dream, they willed it into being by a definition of their own choosing. They did not ask to be accepted, but declared themselves the Americans that perhaps few others recognized, but that had always been within their hearts."

Words can unite people. Therefore, try to speak very clearly, and tell only the truth, for nothing can untie people more than truth and simplicity.

Leo Tolstoy