

BOUNDARY

PEACE INITIATIVE

Volume 235

June 1, 2023

Is Climate Change Affected by Military Spending & War?



June 17, 2023 @ 9 am to 4 pm (Registration @ 8:30 am)
@ Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 7th St., Grand Forks BC
Borsch plus for Lunch and snacks
Admission by Donation

Key Note Speaker: Tamara Lorincz a PhD candidate at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University; works with Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and other Canadian and international peace, socioeconomic justice and environmental groups.

Afternoon Panel: Tamara Lorincz; Graham Watt.

Followed by: Your suggested solutions

For Information: Email: L4peace@telus.net or call Laura @ 250-444-0524

Host-- Boundary Peace Initiative

Endorsers--USCC Working Groups for Peace and Social Justice & Kootenay Region United Nations Association in Canada

Funded by: Boundary Peace Initiative & RDKB 'Area D' Director Linda Kay Weiss

Youth sues Ontario Government

By: EcoJustice, May 2023

When the Ford government stepped into office in 2018, it unlawfully passed the *Cap and Trade Cancellation Act* — a move Ecojustice swiftly (and successfully) challenged on the basis that the Ford government ignored public consultation requirements under Ontario’s *Environmental Bill of Rights*.

While our case vindicated Ontarians’ right to be consulted on changes to environmental law, it did not reverse the *Cap and Trade Cancellation Act*, which rolled back the province’s relatively progressive climate targets, and allowed the government to replace them with a significantly weaker 2030 target.

This weaker target will allow more greenhouse gas emissions to be emitted, further contribute to dangerous climate change-related impacts such as heat waves, infectious diseases, floods, and fires that will harm the health of young Ontarians and future generations, and violate their Charter rights to life, equality, and security of the person.

Young people are especially at risk when it comes to climate threats because these risks will increase in the coming years if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced. It’s their lives and lives of everyone who comes after them that will be forced to bear the costs of climate inaction more than previous generations. Children and youth, and particularly indigenous young people, are also more vulnerable to the physical and mental health impacts of climate change.

That’s why seven young climate leaders, backed by Ecojustice, courageously stepped up to the plate in November 2019, launching a legal fight for a safe and healthy future — starting with a safe climate.

On April 15, 2020, the government filed a motion to strike the case, arguing it should not proceed to a full hearing. The youth applicants countered this motion in July 2020, arguing that they deserved their day in Court.

This led to a historic win. For the first time in Canadian history, a court recognized that climate change has the potential to violate Charter rights and gave the youth the greenlight to move ahead to a full hearing.

The Ontario government then tried to overturn this ruling, but in March 2021 the Ontario Divisional Court dismissed the province’s request to appeal. This made *Mathur et. al.* the first case of its kind to clear key procedural hurdles and proceed to a full hearing before the Ontario Superior Court on September 12-14, 2022.

On April 14, 2023, the court dismissed the case. While the decision was a setback, it still broke new ground in charter climate litigation in Canada — and included a damning indictment of Ontario’s weak and dangerous climate target.

The court found that the case is justifiable, which means it is an appropriate question for courts to weigh in on. This has been a significant obstacle for other Charter-based climate cases in Canada.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Youth sues Ontario Government

The court also found that it was “indisputable” that because of climate change, Ontarians are experiencing increased risk of death and serious bodily harm and that the Government of Ontario — by enacting a target to reduce GHG emissions that falls well below what the global scientific consensus says is required — is contributing to that risk of harm. The court therefore found that Ontario’s target engages Charter rights to life and security of the person. It also recognized that climate change disproportionately impacts young people and Indigenous peoples. The case was dismissed on other legal grounds.

The fight to hold the Ontario government accountable for its climate action is not over. The group of seven courageous young people are undeterred in their fight to protect youth and future generations from climate change, and have now served Ontario with a Notice of Appeal.



GDAMS 2023 Appeal · War Costs Us the Earth

From: Global Campaign on military spending

Global Days of Action on Military Spending – April 13 to May 9, 2023

The world’s militaries are responsible for roughly five percent of global Greenhouse Gas emissions, however their carbon footprint, as well as the various other ways that they contribute to climate breakdown, are rarely scrutinised. Our governments currently spend more than US\$2 trillion on militarisation, but military expansion is inconsistent with efforts to reach essential emissions targets and will exacerbate, not stem, the climate emergency. War and armed conflict lead, not only to death and destruction, but also to environmental devastation and climate breakdown. Although our governments may argue that such “defence” spending is necessary, it will ultimately render us defenceless in the face of the existential threat posed by the climate crisis.

Global heating poses a major and sustained risk to our planet’s climatic cycles and the resultant weather-related disasters often exacerbate existing injustices – and this can lead to conflict for access to land and basic resources, as well as forced displacement. Tackling Climate change must involve dealing with other structural problems such as poverty, economic shocks and weakened institutions. This is particularly true in regions that have contributed the least to the climate crisis, yet are impacted the most by its devastating consequences. (Continued page 3)

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.**

UN International Days

- June 1:** Global Day of Parents
- June 4:** International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- June 5:** World Environment Day
- June 7:** World Food Safety Day
- June 8:** World Oceans Day
- June 12:** World Day Against Child Labour
- June 15:** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- June 16:** International Day of Family Remittances
- June 17:** World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- June 18:** World Day for Countering Hate Speech
- June 19:** International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
- June 20:** World Refugee Day
- June 23:** International Widows' Day
- June 24:** International Day of Women in Diplomacy
- June 26:** International Day Against Drug Abuse and **Illicit Trafficking**
- June 26:** International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

(From last column) **War Costs Us the Earth**

- implement human and common-security-centred policies that protect people and planet and not the profit-driven agenda of the arms and fossil fuel industries;
- create governance structures and alliances based on mutual trust and understanding, cooperation and true diplomacy, where conflict is resolved through dialogue, not war.
- The opportunity cost of doing otherwise just can't get any higher.

War costs us the Earth.

(From page 2) **GDAMS 2023 Appeal; War Costs Us the Earth**

As well as their carbon footprint, the world's military structures also contribute to the climate crisis in other key ways:

– Crucially, military spending diverts resources away from essential environmental and social spending, including initiatives to slow the speed of climate change, deal with loss and damage and to respond to weather emergencies.

– Military structures in the form of national armies, militarised police forces or private security companies are often deployed to protect the fossil fuel industry. This sector is one of the largest producers of GHG and military protection of it makes it complicit in these emissions.

– Although we urgently need to protect our ecosystems from environmental destruction, all too often when environmental activists take steps to safeguard their lands, rivers and seas, they are violently repressed by militarised security structures including the police, private security companies and, at times, the army.

– The nexus between fossil fuel and extractivism, and armed conflict and war is well documented, from the colonial period to the wars of today.

– More and more people are being forced from their homes due to extreme weather events brought about by climate change. In the same way that the border security apparatus currently contains people and stops them from reaching safety or seeking asylum, the military will likely be further deployed to keep out those fleeing climate-related disasters.

– Moreover, the arms industry, which in many ways is the backbone of militarism, invests significant time and finance in corporate lobbying to advance its own profit-driven agenda. In recent years it has used the climate crisis as an opportunity to position itself as a key player in designing 'greener' weapons and has lobbied for more funding to be earmarked for that purpose. This approach prolongs and deepens the logic that drives militarism and war.

Political leadership has focused on hawkish politics and sabre-rattling, stoking tension and fear, instead of cultivating international relations based on mutual trust, diplomacy and cooperation – three components that are essential to tackle the global nature of the climate threat. Funds that could be used to mitigate or reverse climate breakdown, and to promote peaceful conflict transformation, disarmament and global justice initiatives, are instead being spent on militarising an already over-militarised world.

We urgently call on governments to:

- change course and focus on rapid, deep cuts to military spending, driving an arms race and fuelling war;
- demilitarise public policy including policies designed to tackle the climate crisis;

(Continued next column)

WHAT'S UP?

June 17th 9 am to 4 pm @ Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Grand Forks, B.C. the BPI hosts a conference 'Is Climate Change Affected by Military Spending and War?'. Registration at 8:30; Borscht plus lunch and snacks; admission by donation. Contact Laura to find out how you can donate food or time at L4peace@telus.net or 250-444-0524

We ask you to pay attention to the list of UN International Days. All these designated days have to do with the way we continue to treat each other. Although we'd like to think these things are not happening in our backyard and are a problem elsewhere, they happen everywhere. That is why these are International or World Days to bring awareness so as to focus on changing the narrative locally and globally. Think about how you can contribute to changing our personal, community and world so we no longer need these designated days to remind us to respect and honour each other and the planet.

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 email and phone contact 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, Abolition 2000, CNANW and works with various local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

40th Annual Mothers Day Walk for Peace 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have not had time to write a report on this very successful and well attended 40th annual event. The organizers are very grateful to all who took time to share the day with each other as families honouring our biological mothers and Mother Earth and caring about our global family. Here are a few photos courtesy of the USCC Iskra (the Doukhobor monthly magazine). Thank you to the photographer and the magazine.



If you think it is ever warranted to stop on the path of further understanding, you are very far from the truth. The life which we received was given to us not that we might just admire it, but that we should ever look for new truth hidden from us.

Leo Tolstoy

Truth cannot make a person unkind, or too self-assured; the manifestations of truth telling are humility and simplicity.

Leo Tolstoy