Acknowledging that in 1943 Quebec City was the site where the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada entered into a formal cooperation agreement to develop the first atomic bombs, resulting in the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945;

Respecting the moratorium imposed by the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee in Northern Quebec on all uranium-related activities on their lands; supporting the demand for a moratorium by the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, as well as the large consensus against uranium mining as expressed by the Inuit of Nunavik and over 300 municipalities and organizations across the province of Quebec;


President’s Letter
by Dr. Juan Carlos Chirgwin

Dear donors and members, We’d like to know you better. PGS has undergone many changes since its inception. We experienced the thrill of seeing IPPNW win the Nobel Peace Prize and the joy of seeing the Berlin wall dismantled. Board directors changed throughout the decades and our focus was broadened to include all aspects of the nuclear cycle. But one thing hasn’t changed: the palpable threat of nuclear doom, which remains very real today.

What about you? Are you still concerned about the nuclear threat? Do you feel that nuclear weapons and nuclear power are two sides of the same coin and should be tackled simultaneously? Do you feel strongly about one but less about the other?

Sure, we have always tried to communicate with you – through Turning Point, our fundraising letters and our electronic listserve – and have been fortunate enough to meet some of you at workshops and conferences. Andrea Levy, from our office, has spoken with many of you. But the time has come to ask for your direct feedback and guidance on how we can improve and move forward. Please share your ideas by email or by phoning our office. We are looking forward to your observations and suggestions.

As you might have noticed, PGS is never idle. In April 2015, we were one of the main organizers of the World Uranium Symposium that took place in Quebec City. Those of you who attended the three-day international event can attest to its great

Mot du Président
par Dr. Juan Carlos Chirgwin

Chers donateurs, chers membres,

Nous aimerions mieux vous connaître.

MSM a beaucoup changé depuis sa fondation. Nous avons eu le plaisir de voir l’IPPNW recevoir le Prix Nobel de la paix et la joie de voir tomber le mur de Berlin. Au cours des décennies, notre conseil d’administration a connu une succession de membres et de présidents et nous avons élargi notre champ d’intervention de manière à y inclure toutes les phases du cycle nucléaire. Mais une chose n’a jamais changé : la très concrète menace nucléaire, toujours présente aujourd’hui.

Et vous ? La menace nucléaire vous intrigue-t-elle toujours ? Pensez-vous que les armes nucléaires et l’énergie nucléaire sont les deux faces d’une même médaille et qu’il faut s’occuper des deux en même temps ? Est-ce que l’une d’elles vous interpelle davantage que l’autre ?

Certes, nous avons toujours tenté de communiquer avec vous – par l’entremise de notre bulletin, Turning Point, de nos

letters de souscription et de notre liste de diffusion électronique – et avons eu la chance de rencontrer certains d’entre vous lors d’ateliers et de conférences. Beaucoup d’entre vous ont pu parler à la responsable de notre bureau, Andrea Levy. Mais le moment est venu de vous demander de nous dire comment vous voudriez que MSM s’améliore et progresse. Faites-nous part de vos idées par courriel ou par téléphone. Nous avons hâte de recevoir vos commentaires et vos suggestions.

Comme vous l’avez peut-être déjà constaté, MSM ne se repose jamais sur ses lauriers. En avril 2015, nous avons été l’un des principaux organisateurs du Symposium mondial sur l’uranium qui a eu lieu dans la ville de Québec. Ceux et celles d’entre vous qui ont assisté à cet événement international peuvent témoigner de son énorme succès. Pendant trois jours, le symposium s’est penché sur l’ensemble de la filière nucléaire – de la mine d’uranium à l’arme de destruction massive. Nombre de conférenciers, d’artistes et de militants renommés se sont joints aux représentants des peuples autochtones venus de quatre continents pour présenter leurs observations, leurs découvertes et leur

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Cover Photo:
World Uranium Symposium delegates in front of the Quebec Legislature.

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success. The Symposium covered the entire uranium fuel chain, from mining pit to weapon of mass destruction. Many renowned speakers, artists, activists and Indigenous Peoples from four continents presented their findings and experiences at plenaries and workshops. On the last day, Indigenous Peoples took centre stage and Grand Council Chiefs voiced their opposition to uranium mining on their lands. The same message came from Mali, Mongolia, South Africa and Australia.

Thanks to our staff’s hard work since last fall, to raise funds and arrange invitations for international speakers, PGS donations earned us Prestige status, the top sponsorship level for the symposium. Many thanks for your commitment and generosity; your donations made all of this possible. Together we have made a significant contribution to the national and international effort to inform the public and advise governments of the urgent need to adopt safe and sustainable practices regarding the storage of radioactive waste. The symposium’s conclusion echoed PGS’s consistent message: the best place for uranium is in the ground, in its natural state. Leave it there; do not mine it.

From April 27 to May 22, 2015, the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review took place in New York City. Prior to the talks, the UN disarmament chief was served with a petition of 8 million signatures, demanding a total ban on nuclear weapons. In December 2010, Canada’s House of Commons unanimously passed a motion supporting a nuclear weapons convention. Has this motion been forgotten? We encourage you to write your MP* to inquire where the government of Canada now stands on this issue.

Again, thank you for your support. Please contact us with your observations and suggestions for the road ahead. We look forward to hearing from you.


Le travail acharné de notre personnel, qui depuis l’automne dernier a levé des fonds pour le symposium et coordonné les invitations aux conférenciers internationaux, a valu à MSM d’obtenir le statut « Prestige », le plus haut niveau de reconnaissance du travail des commanditaires. Merci encore pour votre engagement et votre générosité; ce sont vos dons qui ont rendu le symposium possible. Ensemble, nous avons grandement contribué à l’effort national et international d’information et de sensibilisation du public et des gouvernements sur l’urgent besoin d’adopter des pratiques sécuritaires et viables à long terme en matière de stockage des déchets radioactifs. La conclusion du symposium est la même que celle que MSM diffuse depuis longtemps : la meilleure place pour l’uranium, c’est sous terre, à l’état naturel. Il faut le laisser en place, ne plus l’extraire.


Again, thank you for your support. Please contact us with your observations and suggestions for the road ahead. We look forward to hearing from you.


From Hiroshima to Fukushima to You

Physics was never my favorite subject in high school. It was too abstract and vague. It never made sense when compared to biology where you could touch and dissect things. Nevertheless, it was a requirement for entry to medical school, and so I reluctantly grappled with the concepts of atomic numbers and radioactive decay.

Even during my medical training, radiation science wasn’t addressed in terms of health and disease.

From Hiroshima to Fukushima to You – A Primer on Radiation and Health by Dr Dale Dewar and Florian Oelck fills an important gap. Not only does it make the physics understandable, it links the abstract world of ionizing radiation to the real world of nuclear weapons, reactors and everything in between.

Medical students and residents need to know what this book has to say. Indeed, all physicians could benefit from bringing themselves up to speed on this vitally important topic.

The humanitarian consequences of a nuclear event—either intentional or unintentional—are simply unacceptable. With that as a starting point medical schools and the institutions of organized medicine must engage and provide civic leadership.

PGS sponsored copies of the Primer were presented to Cliff Cornish, librarian for the Island Medical Program in Victoria and to Robert Melrose the librarian for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC in Vancouver. The plan is to place a copy of the Primer in each medical school across the country and in as many medical libraries and institutions as possible.

If you are able to help by visiting your local medical librarian with a copy of the Primer in hand, please let us know.

Dr. Jonathan Down

Matthew CoonCome, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of Cree from Quebec and Labrador, opened The World Uranium Symposium, followed by an address, via Skype, by former Japanese Prime Minister, Naoto Kan (who governed during the Fukushima disaster). Their messages and that of all other presenters were very similar: uranium represents a universal risk to our health, security and environment, and no amount of technological advances has been sufficient to render this industry safe.

The international aspect of the symposium offered participants a worldview of the problem ranging from congenital birth defects in India, and Mongolian activists being persecuted for protesting contamination of rural lands, to hippos wallowing in radioactive tailings ponds in South Africa. Spokespersons from around the country described the effects of uranium mining on communities’ traditions and the threat to our most valuable natural resource, WATER.

Canada’s role in the uranium industry goes back a long way. Quebec City was the site of the highly secretive military conference in August 1943 between Prime Ministers Mackenzie King, Winston Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt to discuss the development of the atomic bomb. The US and the UK had the technology but Canada had the uranium. Canada provided 90% of the uranium for the first atomic bombs produced in the US.

We were all aghast to learn that while we were hearing about the perils of uranium, Canada was in the midst of selling uranium, once again, to India, a country that has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. (Press release issued available on www.pgs.ca)

French nuclear energy consultant, Mycle Schneider demonstrated a departure from nuclear power and presented solar energy as a realistic alternative today. Professor Brigitte Guerin explained a cyclotron’s role in producing radioactive isotopes for medical imaging and diagnostics. At her hospital in Sherbrooke, QC, the cyclotron facility supplies all the hospital’s needs.

Displaced by solar power and the cyclotron, nuclear energy can now be abandoned, being more dangerous than useful.

The closing plenary welcomed a very special guest, Quebec icon Gilles Vigneault, who sang his song entitled Uranium* and ended with another speech by Matthew CoonCome, even more passionate than his opening speech. Conference participants then signed the symposium’s final declaration, a map for human and planetary survival as we search for sustainable solutions. (Available at www.pgs.ca)


Did You Know?

IPPNW Germany authored “Body Count” a thorough investigation into the death and destruction inflicted upon Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan from the “War on Terror”. PGS and Physicians for Social Responsibility, released the latest edition of this publication on March 19, 2015; the 12th anniversary of the second invasion of Iraq by US forces.

The full report is available on the PGS website, www.pgs.ca
Greenland and Nunavut and the Fight Against Uranium Mining

The World Uranium Symposium was an exciting and inspiring conference for all. The workshop entitled *Greenland and Nunavut: Uranium Issues and Inuit Community Responses* was eye-opening for many listeners as most people living in southern Canada know little about Nunavut and Greenland. Sara Olsvig from Greenland and Hila Tagoona from Nunavut were inspiring speakers during this workshop.

Sara Olsvig is the leader of the Inuit Ataqatigiit political party which has had increasing electoral support in the past few years. As an MP from Greenland she also occupies one of two seats in the Danish parliament since 2011.

Eighty percent of Greenland’s population (total 50,000) is Inuit. Greenland was originally a Danish colony, and in 2008 Greenland voted in favour of the *Self Government Act*, giving Greenlanders more autonomy with respect to many aspects of their lives. However this also resulted in diminishing financial backing from Denmark. The issue of exploitation of Greenland’s uranium has become a hot topic, and there was a zero tolerance policy of mining radioactive substances and oil drilling in place for 25 years prior to the 2013 parliamentary vote to allow uranium mining.

Economic growth and jobs vs environmental degradation and health risks to local communities are themes that recur worldwide with respect to uranium mining, and most of the time this involves aboriginal rights.

Sara Olsvig, an articulate speaker and committed environmentalist, spoke eloquently at the workshop about how her party is working hard to reinstate the ban on uranium mining which was repealed by the majority party in 2013. Her party is part of a coalition government that is often at loggerheads within itself regarding this important issue.

A remarkably similar story is unfolding in Baker Lake, Nunavut, Canada. The French corporation AREVA proposed a uranium mine and milling operation (the “Kiggavik Uranium Mine” Project) 80 km west of Baker Lake, an Inuit town of 1800 located 320 km inland from Hudson Bay. Hila Tagoona, a Caribou Inuit and member of Makita (a public interest group representing the interests of the people of Nunavut with respect to uranium mining in the area), spoke about the continuing story of aboriginal people struggling to keep their sacred lands especially for the caribou, under their own control. After six years of public review, in early May of this year, the Nunavut Impact Review Board submitted its Final Hearing Report to the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and associated responsible Minister.

After examination of the economic and environmental impact of the project, the Board decided that the project should not proceed. This does not rule out the possibility of the mine going through, but sends a message to Bernard Valcourt, the minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development that the health of the people and caribou in the region should be paramount.

The situation in Greenland and in Nunavut exemplify the struggles of aboriginal people worldwide to be heard over the interests of large mining companies. With nuclear energy on the decline globally, and the need for medical isotopes being met by other means, the future of uranium is tenuous as world prices continue to drop. As aboriginal people everywhere fight for their land rights and for protection of their environment, we will hopefully see successes, such as what enfolded in Baker Lake, occur in other places around the world, including Greenland.

Sara Olsvig

Hila Tagoona

Dr. Cathy Vakil, Board of Directors of PGS; Assistant Professor in Dept. of Family Medicine, Queen’s University

Murray Thomson at the CANSEC demonstration. 92-year-old Murray has devoted his life to nuclear abolition and peace. He has just published a book about the 800 Order of Canada recipients calling for Nuclear Disarmament. PGS will honour Murray with the Tom Perry Peace Award at a special event Saturday, September 26 – the 2nd UN International day against nuclear weapons.

NOTE: PGS’ annual AGM will take place on Friday, September 25. For more information contact Andrea Levy at pgsadmin@web.ca or call 613-233-1982
The topic of nuclear energy, nuclear weapons and uranium mining is controversial with respect to politics, economics and environmental effects. But I would argue that ultimately the effects of ionizing radiation on human health are the most important of the consequences of the process of nuclear fission. The health effects have always been ignored or downplayed by proponents of nuclear energy, even the Canadian “watchdog” agency, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), which is full of pro-nuclear “experts” who claim that nuclear facilities do not emit enough ionizing radiation to cause harm to the environment or to humans living nearby.

It is interesting and important to understand the basics of how ionizing radiation affects and harms the body. This allows people to really understand why even small doses, on a chronic basis, can cause illness.

In the first half of this workshop I presented an outline of the basics of what radioactivity is, what happens inside a nuclear reactor, how the process of radioactive decay wreaks havoc inside our cells, and particularly our DNA, which then can precipitate cancer, birth defects, miscarriage, illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes, and genetic inheritable diseases if sperm or egg DNA is damaged. These effects are cumulative over a lifetime, however increases in these illnesses can be difficult to detect when poorly designed studies are done of populations living near these nuclear facilities. Because these methodologically weak studies may not show health effects, pro-nuclear agencies continue to claim there is no harm.

The second part of the workshop was presented by Dr. Ian Fairlie, an independent consultant on radiation risks and a former scientific secretary to the U.K. government’s Committee Examining Radiation Risks from Internal Emitters, who discussed the research regarding health risks of populations living near nuclear facilities.

He explained in detail, with excellent illustrative graphs and tables, how several recent robust studies looking at low level radioactive emissions from nuclear facilities show that children living near these facilities have as much as double the risk of developing leukemia, and the closer they live, the higher their risk.

Dr. Fairlie also explained how the ongoing leaks in reactors sometimes spike when the reactor is opened for maintenance or re-fuelling, explaining why such low levels of radiation can cause cancer.

The emissions usually presented to the public are monthly or yearly averages, and do not take into account the occasional spikes in doses which could precipitate cancer in a child. For more information, see Dr. Fairlie’s website www.ianfairlie.org.

The workshop made it clear that there is very compelling robust medical research indicating harm to populations living near nuclear facilities. Canadians, and especially Ontarians, should pay heed to these findings, as the CNSC continues to be intent on promoting and expanding our nuclear and uranium industries.

Dr. Cathy Vakil

Did You Know?
Radon, a gas that is a by-product of the radioactive decay of uranium, can seep into homes invisibly. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer next to smoking. We are seeing an alarming increase of lung cancer in indigenous people in Canada and around the world.

Did You Know?
Quebec is exporting hydro-electricity to the US at 3 cents/kWh while Ontario residents pay 8.9 cents kWh. Why is Ontario spending the money to rebuild aging nuclear power plants when it could be buying hydro from Quebec? This could benefit both provinces and is a much greener solution than nuclear.

Japanese Visitors Greeted by Oakville, ON Mayor

About forty members of Gensuikyo, including some Hibakusha, were officially greeted by Oakville’s Mayor for Peace, Rob Burton, on April 30th. The meeting was arranged by ICAN-Oakville.

The visitors had travelled to New York City before the NPT meeting to present over 6 million signatures of people calling for elimination of nuclear weapons. In Toronto, they visited City Hall, and were entertained by Science for Peace at. They visited Oakville en route to Niagara Falls and presented the Mayor with a chain of paper cranes and spoke about their nuclear experiences. Other origami works and photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were given to those present.

Dr. Barbara Birkett
A Tale of Two Atomic Cities
Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Weapons of Mass Destruction

by Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki.
First published by Project Syndicate – TRANSCEND Media Service

On April 27 [2015], representatives of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty’s 190 member countries met in New York for a four-week review of the 45-year-old pact. The attendees would be wise to consider an important fact: Although the NPT requires its members to “pursue negotiations in good faith” on nuclear disarmament, a wide legal gap still remains when it comes to eliminating nuclear weapons. It is time for the NPT’s signatories to initiate disarmament negotiations.

This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on August 6 and 9, when citizens everywhere will have an opportunity to pay their respects to the hundreds of thousands of people who were killed or wounded on those tragic days. This is also an occasion to honor the survivors, by supporting their call to eliminate all nuclear weapons, thereby ensuring that no one will ever suffer as they have.

We, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are but two voices among representatives from more than 6,600 cities in 160 countries and regions worldwide who support this historic goal. Our organization, Mayors for Peace, was created in 1982 as a way to transcend national borders and work together toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. More mayors are joining our cause every year, and our determination to pursue nuclear disarmament will only deepen in the years ahead.

It is fitting that mayors, driven by their sense of responsibility to protect their citizens’ safety and welfare, take a keen interest in this cause. The horrific, indiscriminate, and long-term consequences of nuclear weapons for humanity and the environment cannot be overstated — especially when they target densely populated areas.

The danger that nuclear weapons will be used again, either intentionally or accidentally, will exist for as long as they remain available, a conclusion reached at three major international humanitarian conferences and strongly affirmed by the United Nations. And it is scandalous that vast sums are being devoted to maintaining and modernizing these weapons at a time when budget constraints undermine efforts to address pressing human needs around the world.

The number of nuclear near-misses — accidents and miscalculations that have almost led to disaster — is shocking. Moreover, such weapons and their related facilities and components are attractive targets for terrorists. It is a matter of no small public concern that international security still depends on “nuclear deterrence” — a doctrine based on mutual distrust that aims to keep the peace through the threat of mass killings. Worse, there have been suggestions of their actual use.

Military planners who consider the use of nuclear weapons have probably given scant thought to those living in the cities on their target lists.

For too long, the residents of cities have been used as pawns on a global nuclear chessboard, with little concern for the full implications of playing the game. But, as the public is educated about the specific threats that nuclear weapons continue to pose to the cities in which they live, that stance will be increasingly difficult to maintain.

At the same time, people worldwide must stop regarding one another as untrustworthy enemies. That is why Mayors for Peace, together with a wide range of civil-society groups, is striving not only for the abolition of nuclear weapons, but also to cultivate a shared sense of belonging to a single human family, regardless of our cultural, religious, or ethnic differences.

Until now, nuclear-weapon states’ national governments and bureaucracies have preferred to limit the disarmament debate to symbolic measures that imply no deadlines or additional legally binding obligations. They claim that the security environment is not mature enough to take bold steps toward nuclear disarmament. We disagree.

Concerted efforts — involving national and local governments, universities, workers’ unions, political parties, environmental groups, young people, women’s groups, lawyers, and the business community — can change the world. But it is world leaders — in particular, those whose countries maintain nuclear weapons — who must take the first step toward building confidence and initiating meaningful cooperation on disarmament.

Along the way, they can lay the groundwork for a new kind of security system — one that does not rely on nuclear deterrence.

It is crucial that representatives at the NPT review conference work together to bring the rule of law to nuclear disarmament and close the gap in the NPT that has permitted the most inhumane of all weapons of mass destruction to continue to exist. Mayors for Peace and its civil-society partners will do everything we can do to support them. The tragic tale of our two cities should never become the tale of your city.
NGO Presentation to the Delegates

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference


Madame President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
On the cenotaph in the Peace Park in Hiroshima is an inscription that reads, “Rest in peace, the error will not be repeated.” Instead of pointing an accusing finger at the United States the statement treats the issue reverently and philosophically as a crime against all of humanity. This has become the prayer and vow of many survivors who are determined to make sure that the deaths of their loved ones have not been in vain, and that no other human being will ever have to suffer the inhumane, immoral, cruel and indiscriminate effects of nuclear bombs.

Over the years, I have travelled the world to share my testimony as a Hiroshima survivor to help raise people’s awareness of the danger of nuclear weapons.

People’s attitudes toward nuclear weapons have varied from indifference, justification and denial to fear and outrage. I find youth today more open and ready to learn the almost forgotten history of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Never before in my work for nuclear disarmament have I felt such a sense of hopefulness and excitement as I do now.

Why do I feel so hopeful? It’s because of the birth of a rapidly growing global movement with humanitarian initiatives in the recent years. This movement has been reframing the problem of nuclear weapons from deterrence credibility and techno-military issues to the issue of the humanitarian consequences. The result is a strong push for a Nuclear Ban Treaty to achieve the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons. Countries like Norway, Mexico and Austria, and international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and all of those who have collaborated to organize the three successful International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

At the end of the Vienna Conference last December the Austrian Government unveiled the “Austrian Pledge” to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. They invited all NPT member states to support the Pledge so that meaningful discussion could take place at this Review Conference.

However, according to the news media, high-ranking officials of Norway and Japan admitted that the United States shamelessly approached them and pressured them to refrain from supporting the Austrian Pledge. Japan, a loyal ally and dependent of the US “nuclear umbrella”, has not yet signed the Pledge.

This kind of contradictory behavior of words and actions by the Japanese government has been deepening the distrust in the minds of Japanese people.

In international politics this kind of arm-twisting tactic or sabotaging behavior may be common among the Nuclear Weapon States and Nuclear Dependent States, but from the perspective of the majority of the people of the world such shady diplomacy is nothing but repugnant, and blasphemous to the lives of those incinerated by the bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In 2009, in Prague, President Obama stated, “As the only power to have used nuclear weapons, the United States has a moral responsibility to act” and he added “So today I state, clearly and with conviction, America’s commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.” Several Japanese Prime Ministers have likewise publicly stated their support for nuclear disarmament. The often-repeated sentiment is that Japan, as the only nation that has suffered the atomic bombing, has a special responsibility to be at the forefront of the movement to abolish nuclear weapons. These leaders, of the nations that both introduced the nuclear age to the world and have the most intimate knowledge of the humanitarian harm that nuclear weapons cause, have described a role for themselves that they are currently negating.

Not only President Obama and Prime Minister Abe, but you, each and everyone of you NPT member delegates, agreed to Article 6 of this Treaty “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.” You are part of the decision making body for the fate of the human community and your responsibility is grave. Please break away from the non-productive past record on disarmament. After all, the NPT is 45 years old. The world is impatient.

As Foreign Minister of Sweden, Margot Wallström, has said, “If the current mechanism and forum continues to fail, we will need to consider other possible avenues for bringing disarmament work forward.”

It is the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings and the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. We need to reflect once again on the meaning of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the meaning of the UN Charter “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

On behalf of all the victims, from Hiroshima, Nagasaki, the Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, US down-winders, Australian aboriginals, Kazakhstan, Fukushima and many others; and on behalf of all of us in the global community, I demand to the leaders of all nations: ban nuclear weapons, ban nuclear weapons now!

Thank you.
C
oinciding with the World Uranium Symposium in Quebec City this spring, the Canadian government announced a $350 million nuclear deal with India. Prime Minister Stephen Harper welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who declared, “This [nuclear deal] is to save the world from global warming and climate change.”

The Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is not being respected by the nuclear weapon states and has not been signed by India, Pakistan, North Korea or Israel, the newest nuclear-armed nations. Canada traded its nuclear energy technology in the 1970s and allowed India to acquire the nuclear bomb, thus driving Pakistan to also develop nuclear weapons. With four nations thus armed, Canada has contributed to a regional arms race. Now it has closed another nuclear deal with India.

Prime Minister Harper justifies this deal with India because it is a democracy. Nuclear meltdowns have occurred in democracies like the United States and Japan, yet we are being told to suspend our belief that nuclear energy and nuclear weapons are linked, unless we speak of Iran. This hypocrisy does not make us safer in today’s world. Nuclear war by human error, miscalculation or intent, as well as the low-yield “dirty bomb” of an ordinary non-state terrorist, are real threats to our safety.

The recent Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference was both a great disappointment and a spur for new actions.

Not even a watered-down final consensus document was approved, leading to great frustration on the part of the non-nuclear states who have been diligently working to see a ban on nuclear weapons. They have honoured their pledge to stay nuclear free, while the nuclear states, despite promises made in Obama’s speech in 2009 at Prague and in Article 6 of the NPT, are not prepared to relinquish their weapons.

Intolerance towards Iran developing nuclear weapons is front page news, but a blind eye is turned towards the many undeclared ones that Israel possesses. The talks stalled over the proposal to convene a meeting on a Middle East nuclear free zone. Israel rejected this proposal and, although Israel is not a party to the NPT, it was supported by the US, UK and Canada.

The Humanitarian Pledge, initially launched by Austria in Vienna, December 2014, and signed since by 108 non-nuclear states (Canada is not a signatory), aims to overcome “the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.” More and more countries are calling for disarmament. We are determined to cease empty promises and see real action on a nuclear weapons ban.

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference Outcome

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What the Nuclear Industry Says

Nuclear energy does not emit carbon dioxide and so does not contribute to global warming.

What is Not Said

It is true that nuclear reactors do not give off carbon dioxide, but one must consider every other aspect of the nuclear chain from prospecting and mining, to transporting the materials, conversion and building nuclear plants, fuel processing and storage (and there is no safe way to store the spent fuel).

A survey of 19 studies on greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life cycle of a nuclear power plant resulted in an estimated range of 1.4 to 2.88 carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt hour (Co2e/kWh). Prospecting and decommissioning were not included in these studies.

What the Nuclear Industry Says

Alternative energy sources like wind and solar are expensive and impractical.

What is Not Said

Solar energy is now cheaper and more efficient than nuclear energy. Wind turbines and solar panels avoid the tons of toxic radioactive waste of the nuclear option, which occupies tracts of arable land.

What the Nuclear Industry Says

Nuclear energy is safe.

What is Not Said

Radioactive waste pollutes our air, land and water leaving devastation forever. Increased incidence of cancers, stillbirths, malformations and mental retardation have all been linked to fallout from nuclear testing and power plants.

Accidents can and do happen — are we going to learn from past mistakes or continue to jeopardize the health of our planet and everything on it.

Plutonium is produced as a by-product in nuclear power plants, which can then be diverted to weapons-grade uranium.

Dr. Juan Carlos Chirgwin
Halifax joins Mayors for Peace Campaign

With little fanfare and sparse media coverage, Halifax has been declared a member city of the Mayors for Peace Campaign. Specifically, Mayor Mike Savage has now joined in solidarity with mayors of 6,374 cities in 160 countries around the globe to unequivocally that we together want to avert an unfathomable humanitarian and environmental crisis caused by nuclear weapons. In doing so, Mike Savage has joined the 88% of Canadians who support a legal agreement to eliminate nuclear weapons. Aside from testing, nuclear weapons have intentionally been used twice at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Yet there have been numerous well-documented near-misses involving nuclear weapons. The probability of inadvertent nuclear weapon detonation is not zero, especially considering that 1800 weapons remain on high alert, ready to be launched at the stroke of a computer key. Today the risk is considered to be increasing because of fear of access to nuclear weapons by non-state actors, such as Al Queda and ISIS.

Mayors for Peace and other non-governmental organizations have stepped in to deal with this perceived increased risk. One tactic that is proving to be effective is to demonstrate what a nuclear weapon would do to “your” city, along with showing the effects on climate of a nuclear weapon exchange. For instance, climate change studies show that for a “limited” war between India and Pakistan, the environmental impacts would be felt for 10 years world-wide and two billion people would starve.

Such effects are termed the “Humanitarian Impact” of nuclear weapons. Presentation of this type of material is changing the focus of diplomatic conversations away from the rhetoric of deterrence. In fact two conferences on the “Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons” were held last year and the third one is to be held in Vienna December 2014. Officials from all the world’s countries were invited with 127 countries represented at the first conference and 146 countries at the second. Canada made it to the second conference.

Statements from non-governmental organizations are helpful. For instance, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies realize they could not effectively handle a crisis resulting from the detonation of a nuclear weapon and have issued a terse statement, based on International Humanitarian Law, published in 2013.

The language used in the summary of the 2010 Non Proliferation Treaty conference reflects that the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons is being understood on a diplomatic level. The fact that prevention is the only avenue left cannot be avoided, which leads the way to a Nuclear Weapons Convention or its simpler version of a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

There is growing momentum to get on with writing such a treaty, with or without the nuclear weapon-have nations and indeed with or without Canada. There is precedence for other treaties being written without full participation of all nations. Some examples are the Landmine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Diplomats of nuclear-have nations are reported to be embarrassed by the growing tide of countries who say that the time is overripe to abolish these weapons.

Dr. Nancy Covington
Originally published in Chronicle Herald, Dec. 6, 2014 (anniversary of Halifax explosion, Dec. 6, 1917)

The PGS Top 40

Physicians for Global Survival is introducing a new initiative to involve PGS members and the public at large—we want help in identifying the Top 40 peace songs of the past 70 years—songs that have national or regional significance to the peace movement as reflected in PGS mission statement.

- Abolition of nuclear weapons
- Prevention of war
- Non-violent conflict resolution
- Social justice
- Sustainable world (Environment)

We are asking our members and the public to nominate songs with a brief statement or opinion as to why the song is important to them and to the peace movement.

Nominated songs will be posted on the website and the public is invited to vote for their favourite songs and express their reasons for supporting the songs.

The quality of the comments is just as important as the number of votes and together they will help form the PGS Top 40.

Please visit the PGS website — www.pgs.ca — to see how to nominate songs, how to vote, and how to comment on songs already nominated.

Those without internet access can contact our office in Ottawa for details at (613) 233-1982.

Please send us:
- Nominator’s Name
- Nominator’s e-mail address
- Peace Song nominated
- Name of Artist/Performer/Songwriter
- The reason this Peace Song is important to you and the peace movement

Watch for the announcement of our PGS Top 40 in Fall 2015.
YES! I want to support Physicians for Global Survival!

I WISH TO SUPPORT PHYSICIANS FOR GLOBAL SURVIVAL.
☐ My single donation: ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 ☐ $150 ☐ Other $________

☐ I prefer to join the Monthly Giving program.
I enclose a void cheque, or please deduct monthly donations of $________ from my Visa, MasterCard or American Express (please fill out form at right).

I WANT TO JOIN PGS! [MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS]:
☐ Physician $120
☐ Retired Physician/Associate or Other Occupation $60
☐ Student $25

☐ I prefer to receive Turning Point by email in future.
My email is ____________________________

PGS can no longer issue charitable tax receipts. Canadian Physicians for Research and Education in Peace (CPREP) offers receipts for donations to CPREP. For more information and to support CPREP, visit http://cprep.ca.

Dr. Vinay Jindal
PGS Treasurer/
Board Member;
Chair, Toronto’s Hiroshima/
Nagasaki Day Coalition

Global Wave 2015

Nuclear abolition campaigners undertook a number of actions at nuclear weapons bases and facilities in the United States and other countries on April 26/27 as part of Global Wave 2015 — a world-wide action to ‘wave goodbye to nuclear weapons.’

The Global Wave action swept around the world as world leaders gathered in New York for the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review.

The Global Wave sent a message to the governments – it’s time to agree to a plan to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. It’s time to wave goodbye to nuclear weapons.

Ground Zero to Global Zero: Hope After 70 Years
70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

August 6, 2015 6:30 PM (Hiroshima Day) | The Church of the Holy Trinity, Toronto

Toronto’s Hiroshima/ Nagasaki Day Coalition (HNDC) is comprised of peace and community groups including Physicians for Global Survival, Voice of Women for Peace, Science for Peace and the Toronto–Area Interfaith Council. The HNDC continues to organize Toronto’s annual ceremony to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki through collaboration, volunteerism and donations; without municipal or government grants.

This year’s event is entitled Ground Zero to Global Zero: Hope After 70 Years to reflect the positive changes occurring in the nuclear abolition movement with initiatives including the ICAN campaign and the conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Paul Dewar, MP Ottawa-Centre and Co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, will provide the keynote address. The event will include a Hiroshima–Nagasaki Day Proclamation from the Mayor of Toronto and performances by the Yakudo Traditional Japanese Drummers, flautist Ron Korb, the Toronto Raging Grannies and the Pax Christi Chorale. Community tables including origami and lantern making will be open from 4:30–6:30 PM.

The HNDC is facing several challenges this year as we struggle to organize our event while the city prepares for the Pan Am/ Parapan Am Games this July and August. We hope our event’s central location at the Church of the Holy Trinity will allow our international visitors to join us in remembering the horrific effects of nuclear weapons and the urgent need for nuclear abolition. The event is free, open to the public and family-friendly.

On behalf of PGS, I would like to encourage our friends across Canada to plan a community event, large or small, for Hiroshima Nagasaki Day (August 6th and 9th) to help ensure there is a strong, united voice across Canada for peace, humanity and complete nuclear abolition.

Please e-mail your Hiroshima-Nagasaki event with details to Andrea at pgsadmin@web.ca to ensure it is posted on the Physicians for Global Survival website.
Canada works toward nuclear abolition

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>is dedicated to education and research on civilian or military nuclear energy, including non-nuclear alternatives, especially pertaining to Canada.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccnr.org">www.ccnr.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Canadians across the country</strong></td>
<td>are working toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. Active groups include those shown here.</td>
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<td><strong>Science for Peace</strong></td>
<td>seeks to understand and act against the forces that make for militarism, environmental destruction and social injustice here and abroad.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scienceforpeace.ca">www.scienceforpeace.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian Department of Peace Initiative</strong></td>
<td>promotes a Department of Peace and a Minister to advance a new architecture of peace that promotes a culture of peace and assertive non-violence in Canada and the world.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.departmentofpeace.ca">www.departmentofpeace.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physicians for Global Survival</strong></td>
<td>is committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of war, the promotion of nonviolent means of conflict resolution and social justice in a sustainable world.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pgs.ca">www.pgs.ca</a></td>
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<td><strong>Voice of Women for Peace</strong></td>
<td>provides a means for women to exercise responsibility for the promotion of world peace and justice, to create the mutual respect and understanding necessary for the peaceful resolution of international conflict.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vowpeace.org">www.vowpeace.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>The Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons</strong></td>
<td>was established in 1996 by representatives of national organizations that share the conviction that nuclear weapons are immoral and should be abolished.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.web.net/~cnanw">www.web.net/~cnanw</a></td>
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<td><strong>Project Ploughshares</strong></td>
<td>works with churches, governments and civil society, in Canada and abroad, to advance policies and actions to prevent war and armed violence and build peace.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ploughshares.ca">www.ploughshares.ca</a></td>
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<td><strong>Women's International League for Peace and Freedom</strong></td>
<td>unites women to study and make known and help abolish the causes and the legitimization of war, and to work toward world peace; total and universal disarmament.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wilpfinternational.org/canada">www.wilpfinternational.org/canada</a></td>
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<td><strong>The Canadian Peace Alliance</strong></td>
<td>is a coalition of groups working on peace issues, with membership from coast to coast to coast. Canada’s largest umbrella peace organization.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peace.ca/canadianpeacealliance.htm">www.peace.ca/canadianpeacealliance.htm</a></td>
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<td><strong>Canadian Pugwash Group</strong></td>
<td>addresses prevention and resolution of armed conflict including nuclear abolition and nuclear and conventional disarmament, control of the arms trade, the peaceful resolution of disputes within and among states; contributes to the solutions for socioeconomic and environmental threats to human security.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pugwashgroup.ca">www.pugwashgroup.ca</a></td>
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<td><strong>World Federalists</strong></td>
<td>strives to maintain international peace and security, to prevent war, to respect fundamental human rights and the international rule of law and to promote the economic and social advancement of all people.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.worldfederalistscanada.org">www.worldfederalistscanada.org</a></td>
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