

Work For Peace... Stop Paying For War

# Conscience Canada



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Spring 2008, No. 94 ISSN 1196-9970

## "... It is possible"

Jan Slakov

That was the title of the editorial we've had to cut. It had some great quotes from our DVD: *Work for Peace, Stop Paying for War/ Travaillons pour la paix, cessons de payer pour la guerre*, including this closing quote from our dear president, Bruna Nota: "The possible is only limited by our imagination, so it is possible."

However, it turns out to be **impossible** to fit everything in! This is, really, a good sign. There is lots going on to share with you. And we want it to be in large enough print for you to read!

The DVD is really a wonderful tool for **sharing our message**. By now, over 600 copies have been mailed out and others have viewed it on YouTube (thank you, Rakesh!). Many people have seen it and find it very useful for explaining, in a mere 11 minutes, why the peace tax fund idea is so important and how it works.

As we move into the tax season, more people will be showing the DVD to groups in their

community. Because the DVD takes only minutes to watch and covers so much ground, many groups would appreciate the opportunity to watch it twice. After each showing, the audience will likely have questions, so it is useful to have anticipated some frequently asked questions. For instance, people often want to know what happens to those who redirect their taxes. Another common question concerns how to counter genocidal violence without relying on military might. You can find answers to these and other questions at: [www.consciencecanada.ca/questions/1](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/questions/1) but feel free to contact us if you'd like to discuss any such question further.

When showing the DVD to groups, be sure to have copies of the Peace Tax Return (see insert after page 4) and our brochure ready to hand out. It would also be helpful to have a copy of the parliamentary petition in favour of a peace tax bill for people to sign (available at:

[www.consciencecanada.ca/references](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/references) or by contacting us).

You can also watch the DVD on YouTube by searching for "Conscience Canada" or by looking up this address: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Vl3YnBEgk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Vl3YnBEgk). (Appreciative ratings can help encourage others to watch it as well.)

Thank you to the many people who sent in donations, with special thanks to an anonymous donor whose donation made it possible for us to distribute the DVD free of charge, as well as to film-makers Sarah Zammit and

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Rakesh Sidana who donated their time and superb skills to this project.

At times, we weren't sure it would be possible to save Conscience Canada and the prospect of continuing without Bruna as president is a bit daunting. To our delight, though, new people are stepping up to replace Louise Dixon, Huberte Gautreau and Bruna on the board (see page 10) and it feels like this organization has some real momentum. It's exciting to think of how that may free up our imaginations, helping to make even more great things possible.

*Jan Slakov, this newsletter's main editor, is one of Conscience Canada's board members.*

#### A B O U T

*This newsletter is produced by Conscience Canada, a non-governmental organization which has worked since 1978 to:*

- *increase Canadians' awareness of the connection between taxes and war*
- *divert taxes away from war*
- *support creative nonviolent conflict prevention and resolution*
- *promote conscientious objection legislation*

*The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of Conscience Canada. An electronic version of this newsletter is available. Please let us know your preference.*

#### B O A R D

*Benno Barg, Linda Foy, Huberte Gautreau, Murray Lumley, Bruna Nota, Jan Slakov, Carol Wagner, Don Woodside. Newsletter design: Jan Steinman.*

## Opportunities to promote peace

**International CO Day, Valentine's, Mother's Day**

The International Conscientious Objector Day, May 15, offers an excellent opportunity for outreach. (See the Fall, 2007 issue of our newsletter for a copy of Sen. Nancy Ruth's statement from last year's CO Day.)

Let's not forget Valentine's and Mother's Day! One of our members, Anna Kirkpatrick, makes cards celebrating the peaceful origins of these holidays. The cards are printed on 100% recycled paper and feature original artwork on the front and historical information (see below) on the reverse. The cards are \$2.00 each or \$1.50 each for orders of ten or more.

Available in English or French. For more information or to order contact Anna Kirkpatrick at: [red\\_letter@mail.com](mailto:red_letter@mail.com) or telephone (250)352-3681.

**This Valentines Day, make love not war!**

Who was Saint Valentine?

Possibly a third century Roman priest, when Rome was ruled by the bloodthirsty Emperor Claudius II. Single men were thought to make better soldiers and only they were subject to the draft. Worrying that men would marry to avoid military service Claudius outlawed marriage. Valentine performed marriages in secret: he united lovers and



provided war resisters with an alternative to the draft.

Valentine was eventually executed for his act of defiance.

**Celebrate Mothers' Day!**



Mothers' Day originated as a protest against war and inequality. In 1870, Julia Ward Howe issued her Mothers' Day Proclamation, which reads in part: "We women of one country will be too tender to those of another to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm..."

*Anna Kirkpatrick lives in Nelson B.C. She works as coordinator for the Earth Matters Farm to Table Project and is involved with the War Resisters Support Group.*

## Let your MP know what you want!

Don Woodside

We lobbied MPs from all 4 federal parties most recently in 2005. We were asking for support for the private member's bill (see below) put forward by Bill Siksay (NDP from BC). We received a surprisingly positive reception. BUT even more important than our lobbying at the House of Commons, is YOUR lobbying in your MP's constituency office. An MP is far more interested in Conscience Canada's work if s/he has heard about it from you, a voter in their riding. You may initially feel intimidated by the prospect of meeting your MP to talk about conscientious objection to military taxation. Having taken part in this process several times, I can say it is always very rewarding to me, because I know I have spoken up

for something I believe in. In my experience, MPs tend to respect that kind of conviction.

We also have assembled a very good package of information and guidance for MP visits:

[www.consciencecanada.ca/you/](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/you/).

You may wish to print off a copy of one or more items from the website to leave behind with the MP, or contact us by phone, email or post for the package.

It's often a good idea to invite another concerned person to join you in such a visit and we may be able to find someone in your area, if you'd like help with this. After you visit, we'd be most interested to hear about your experience.

The Legislation: The current version of the private member's bill (Bill C460, The Conscientious Objection Act:

[www.consciencecanada.ca/legislation/](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/legislation/)) would make it a legal option for all Canadian taxpayers, even those whose taxes are deducted at source (e.g. by their employer) to redirect all their federal taxes to a fund to be used for any non military purpose.

We are also asking you to contact your local media to reach out to a wider audience: we need a critical mass of citizens pushing for legislative change!

*Don is a long time peace tax truster who enjoys the challenge of working to promote peace through Conscience Canada and in other ways too.*

## Symbolism Rocks!

Don Woodside

An underused option in our Peace Tax Return is symbolic redirection of military taxes. I first heard of this at the 2000 International Peace Tax Conference. The Spanish delegation told us that several thousand citizens were redirecting a symbolic sum, about \$25, to a peace tax fund as a demonstration of their support for conscientious objection to military taxation. This appears to be a less intimidating step than full scale redirection, as the sum is small. But it is a BIG statement of support for the aims of Conscience Canada. If we had a thousand people making a symbolic redirection of \$25, **and letting their MPs know about their action**, our credibility on Parliament Hill would go way up.

*Continued on page 4*

### H A V E Y O U B E E N A U D I T E D ?

*A number of those who have redirected their military taxes to the peace tax fund have experienced collection, either from their bank account, pension, or garnishee of wages.*

*We are very interested in learning about what your experience has been and other responses from the Canada Revenue Agency which may be more intimidating to prospective COMTs. To our knowledge nobody has been audited, but we would like to know more about your experience to offer better support to other tax resisters.*

*Have you been audited? Have you had problems with your credit rating? Has your bank account been frozen?*

### N E W O N T H E W E B S I T E

*A friend of CC who is also a tax expert has provided us with a number of links to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) website and some comments on how they can be useful for the conscientious objector who has received the Notice of Assessment and wants to record further objections to the military portion of the taxes. The full information is on the CC website:*

[www.consciencecanada.ca/taxes/](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/taxes/)

*We are warned that CRA only applies the law, therefore at the same time as we object, we must work to convince legislators of the necessity for legislative change.*

That credibility is vital if we are to have any hope for the passage of the Conscientious Objection Act which Bill Siksay MP has introduced into Parliament. Symbolic redirection is a way to enhance the statement of conscience (which is Option A in the Peace Tax Return). It also is a viable strategy for those who have had all their tax deducted at source, or have a refund owing.

**M A R K Y O U R  
C A L E N D A R**

5-7 September 2008

*The 12th International Conference of 'Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI)' is a meeting-point for war tax resister and conscientious objectors. It is planned for Sept. 5-7 2008 on the campus of Manchester University and will be hosted by Conscience, the UK peace tax campaign. Let us know if you plan to attend.*  
[www.conscienceonline.org.uk](http://www.conscienceonline.org.uk)

## Are We Responsible?

While most conscientious objectors think that war itself is a crime, under international law, there are certain specific acts which are deemed "war crimes". It is doubtful that there has been a war anywhere which was free of war crimes.

Are taxpayers not complicit for crimes committed by the armed forces of their nations? This is the question Dave Hubert has asked the Finance Minister and that his lawyer hopes one day to take to court.

The following excerpts from letters Dave has sent to Finance Minister Flaherty outline his position.

*"In 1993, three young men were murdered by the Canadian Forces (CF) personnel in Somalia. Their murders were first covered up but eventually a Commission of Inquiry was called to investigate them. The Inquiry also exposed other criminality within the CF and Department of Defense.*

*Unfortunately, the Commission of Inquiry was terminated before it could finish its work. The criminality of those responsible for the murders was never prosecuted and remains a blot on our national consciousness."*

[Dave's letter gives other examples of illegal activity committed by the CF, including the biological testing program at Suffield, AB, the heavy use of Agent Orange and Agent Purple at Gagetown, NB, abuses against women committed by members of the CF and cites Osgoode law Prof. Michael Mandel's book, *How America Gets Away With Murder*, which provides further evidence of Canadian involvement in illegal acts.]

*"Just as the RCMP, acting on behalf of the people of Canada, had committed an offense against Mr. Arar, so the members of the Canadian Forces, also acting on behalf of the people of Canada, regularly commit offenses against various people, as my letter to you of May 4, 2006 outlined. I do not want to become complicit in these offenses by helping to pay for them.*

*It is my desire to have a court of law decide if I am obligated to support*

*illegal and criminal activities committed by the Canadian Forces on behalf of the Government of Canada acting for the people of Canada. It is my desire to have the courts affirm that Canada is a country "founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law."*

John McNamer, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam war whose documentation of human rights abuses and war crimes has been widely distributed and cited, reminds us of other initiatives seeking to ensure that Canada obey the rule of law. These include: a request from Michael Byers to the World Court asking for an investigation into violations of international anti-torture laws and a current legal action by Amnesty and BC Civil Liberties Association concerning Canada Forces handling of Afghan detainees and various investigations into questions raised by Univ. of Ottawa Prof. Amir Attaran.

*Should you wish to contact Dave Hubert or John McNamer, here are their e-mail addresses:*

*dehubert@telus.net and  
jhmcnamer@yahoo.ca*

**A G I F T**



*We hope you'll find the enclosed fridge magnet useful at home, in the office or elsewhere. It may pique your friends' curiosity and give you the opportunity to share your interest in conscientious objection to military taxation with them.*

# ***Conscience Canada Peace Tax Return 2007***

**If you work  
for peace...**



**stop paying  
for war.**

***Affirm your refusal to pay for war   
Redirect a symbolic part of your military  
taxes  Redirect all your military taxes***

# THE PEACE TAX RETURN: A Declaration of Objection to Military Taxes

## Who is this form for?

This form is for those who **object to military spending on grounds of principle/conscience** and wish to declare their objection to the Canadian government. Although *this is not an official Income Tax and Benefit Return form*, it is not an offense to use it and we are not aware of any criminal charges against any of the 1,000+ Canadians who have expressed conscientious objection to military taxation since Conscience Canada began in 1978.

## How to fill in your Peace Tax Return

The form is in two parts: A and B. Please complete **EITHER** Part A **OR** Part B by signing & dating the declaration.

### Part A

Part A is for those who **wish to make a declaration** without diverting any military taxes, who have no tax to pay, or who have a refund owed to them by Revenue Canada.

**Instructions for Part A:** After signing and dating the declaration in Part A, please mail the declaration along with your Income Tax and Benefit Return form to the Tax Services Office nearest you. Please email or write Conscience Canada to let us know you have done this so we can record your objection to military taxation.

### Part B

Part B is for those whose principles/conscience direct them to divert the percentage of their taxes that contribute to military spending (or a symbolic portion). Since the Canadian government does not currently recognize conscientious objection to military taxation as a legal right, withholding or diverting taxes may result in a variety of responses from CRA, including a legal order to garnish wages or debit bank accounts to pay CRA outstanding taxes and interest. For more information please see [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca) or email [consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca).

## Instructions for Part B:

1. After completing your official Income Tax form down to Balance Due, go back to the Net Federal Tax Line and calculate 8.4% (Department of National Defence expenditures in 2007) of the amount you entered on this line. Deduct that amount (the 8.4%) from your cheque to be sent to the Receiver General. If you have chosen to divert a symbolic sum, deduct the symbolic amount you have chosen.
2. Write a cheque for the amount you are diverting to "Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund" and send it to CC (address below). CC will hold this money in trust and will return it to you at any time at your request. Please specify if you wish the interest on your deposit to be kept segregated or if CC can use it for its operations.
3. After signing and dating the declaration in Part B, return or mail the Peace Tax Return form along with your Income Tax and Benefit Return form to the Tax Centre or Tax Services Office nearest you.

## Copies to the Minister of Finance and other MPs

We encourage you to send a copy of your Peace Tax Return along with a letter to the Minister of Finance explaining why you wish to have your taxes supporting peace rather than killing. We also encourage you to send copies of your letter (postage free to House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6, or via email) to the Minister of Revenue, to all Party Leaders, and to your MP. Contact info can be found at <http://www.consciencecanada.ca>.

## Conscience Canada's Peace Tax Trust Fund

Until a Conscientious Objection Bill is passed into legislation, Conscience Canada provides a positive option. By directing some or all of the military portion of your taxes into Conscience Canada's Peace Tax Trust Fund, you send a message to the Canadian government that you want your taxes to be used for peace, not war.



### Yes! I object to paying for war and want my taxes to work for peace

- I have completed Conscience Canada's *Peace Tax Return* and have mailed a copy to the Canada Revenue Agency with my 2007 Income Tax and Benefit Return form.
- I have informed my MP, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Revenue, the Prime Minister, and the leaders of the opposition parties of my objection to military taxation and my desire for peace tax legislation.

Name:

Date:

Address:

Return to Conscience Canada, 901-70 Mill Street, Toronto, ON M5A 4R1

## Peace Tax Return

### Identification

Name		
Mailing address: Apt. No. – Street No. Street Name		
P.O. Box	R. R.	
City	Prov./Terr.	Postal code

**For Canada Revenue Agency use only – do not use this area**

Received	
<b>Action taken</b>	<b>Date</b>
Reply sent	
Copy to Minister of Finance	

**Instructions:** Please carefully read the instructions included with this form and then complete **EITHER** Part A **OR** Part B by **signing and dating the statement that applies to you.**

#### Part A

If you complete Part A please return or mail this form, along with your *Income Tax and Benefit Return* form, to the Tax Centre or Tax Services Office nearest you. Please mail the coupon on the opposite page to Conscience Canada, or email [consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca) so we can record your objection.

**A**

- I claim the right of conscience under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to refuse to pay that portion of my income tax which contributes to the preparation for and the execution of war.
- I object to having my taxes conscripted to pay for capital-intensive modern warfare.
- I request that legislation be enacted to create a government controlled Peace Fund, into which that portion of my taxes used for military purposes may be placed.
- I believe that non-military peace building initiatives are more effectual, cost effective, and will not offend my conscience/principles or deny my human rights.
- Please recognize my human right to exercise my conscientious objection to war by ensuring that none of my taxes are used for military purposes.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part B

If you complete Part B please return or mail this form, along with your *Income Tax and Benefit Return* form, to the Tax Centre or Tax Services Office nearest you. Make out a cheque for the diverted income tax amount to *Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund* and send it to Conscience Canada.

**B**

- I claim the right of conscience under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to refuse to pay that portion of my income tax which contributes to the preparation for and the execution of war.
- I object to having my taxes conscripted to pay for capital-intensive modern warfare.
- I believe in paying all of my taxes but on grounds of conscience I am diverting \$\_\_\_\_\_ of owed federal tax for tax year 2007 to the Peace Tax Trust Fund of Conscience Canada until such time as legislation permits me to place it in a government controlled Peace Fund. This amount represents either the full military portion of my federal income tax (8.4% for the 2007 tax year) or a symbolic portion of it.
- I believe that non-military peace building initiatives are more effectual, cost effective, and will not offend my conscience/principles or deny my human rights.
- Please recognize my human right to exercise my conscientious objection to war by ensuring that none of my taxes are used for military purposes.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# THE PEACE TAX RETURN: A Declaration of Objection to Military Taxes

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the state of our world. We sense that humanity's priorities are way out of line, and statistics tell us that is indeed the case: with about one third of what the world spends each year on its militaries, we could fund programs to meet basic human needs and also address critical emerging problems such as climate change.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, even a democracy like Canada finds itself embroiled in war and human rights violations in Afghanistan, Haiti, Somalia, and elsewhere. Insisting that our taxes be used to build peace directly, through nonviolent peace-building measures, and refusing to pay for militarism, is one way we can help turn the tide and make our voices heard.

The Canadian Forces include many exceptional human beings who are willing to risk their lives to improve life for others. However, through our taxes, we are training these wonderful people to kill. Canada's Chief of Defence Staff, Rick Hillier, says this unequivocally: "We are the Canadian Forces, and our job is to be able to kill people".<sup>2</sup>

We are told this war-making is for a host of worthy causes and that we would be naïve to believe there was any other viable option. But nonviolence, the "force more powerful", has been used effectively even against murderous regimes such as apartheid and the Nazis. If anything is naïve, it is to believe that war-making is primarily about protecting human rights and promoting peace and democracy. War brings massive profits from arms sales, seizure of natural resources, and corporate takeovers in occupied lands. Today's wars are sold to us as a means to fight terrorism, yet numerous people have observed that war breeds terrorism.<sup>3</sup>

We can learn from the examples of many who resisted great evil non-violently, from all the people who boycotted the racist apartheid regime in South Africa to Gandhi and his Afghan friend Badshah Kahn, that nonviolence is, indeed, the "force more powerful".<sup>4</sup> The Afghan population (and Canada) would be much safer if Canada followed Dr. Seddiq Weera's advice to "invest in multi-level peace talks, assist political parties, and support a national reconciliation program" in Afghanistan,<sup>5</sup> or follow the "Third Option" presented by McMaster University's Centre for Peace Studies<sup>6</sup> to the Canadian government as a constructive way to engage in war-torn countries rather than contributing to further violence.

We need to look at our priorities. How do we want to direct our energies? Here are some facts worth considering:

- It is estimated that it would cost \$430 per person per year to prevent the most disastrous effects of climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>7</sup> Meanwhile, Canada spends more than \$523 per person per year on its military.<sup>8</sup>
- With \$100 we could buy 10 blankets for refugees or 10 hand grenades.<sup>9</sup>
- In 1981, Canada had 1,149 members of its armed forces involved in UN peacekeeping missions. By 2006 that number had declined to 56.<sup>10</sup>
- Canada is now the 6th largest supplier of armaments to the world<sup>11</sup> while Canada's ranking among 22 OECD ODA (overseas development aid) donor countries fell from 6th in 1995 to 17th in 2000.<sup>12</sup>
- Canada is now NATO's 6th highest military spender while, amongst the 41 industrialized nations that agreed to specific reduction targets under the Kyoto accord, Canada ranks 7th from the bottom.<sup>13</sup>

Nonviolence offers no easy, safe path to security; there is no way to make ourselves completely safe. But nonviolence is an effective and ethical choice for our times. Please check out our FAQ at [www.consciencecanada.ca/questions](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/questions) for more discussion about difficult issues such as non-violent responses to tyranny and genocide, and for more information about what happens to people who redirect the military portion of their taxes to a peace tax trust fund. For other ideas on how you can take action, see [www.consciencecanada.ca/you](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/you) or contact us at the address below.

**Join us now so that some day you can stop paying for war!**

CITED SOURCES are all available online; for full citations contact Conscience Canada. (1) World Game Institute (1998), *What the world wants and how to pay for it using military expenditures*; (2) Leblanc, D. (2005, July 15), JTF2 to hunt al-Qaeda, *Globe & Mail*; (3) For example, "War on terror may breed more terrorism, experts tell Madrid summit" (2005, March 9), Agence France Presse; (4) <http://www.aforcemorepowerful.org>; (5) Weera, S. (2006, March 3), Canada should also invest in peace in Afghanistan, *Toronto Star*; (6) Santa Barbara, J. (2006), A 'third option' for Canada in Afghanistan, *Peace Magazine*, 22(4); (7) Stern, N. (2006), *Stern review on the economics of climate change*; (8) Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada (2007), *Public Accounts of Canada*; (9) Schriener, R. (2003), *US military consumption*; (10) Staples, S. (2006), *Marching orders*; (11) CBC News (2007, October 29), Canada's military exports soar as numbers go unreported; (12) Pistor, M. (2007), *Official development assistance spending*; (13) Staples, S., & Robinson, B. (2007), *More than the cold war*.

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**For more information, contact Conscience Canada**  
901-70 Mill Street, Toronto, ON M5A 4R1 ❖ 416-203-1402  
[consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca) ❖ <http://www.consciencecanada.ca>





## Ursula Franklin tribute



The Globe and Mail called Ursula Franklin 'the very definition of an intellectual'. Professor Emerita of the University of Toronto she is a world renowned authority on matters of peace, technology, justice and women issues. She continues to be an indefatigable mentor and inspiration to countless activists and scientists.

*"It is crucial to recognize that war and war measures are fundamentally dysfunctional instruments of problem-solving. Violence begets more violence, wars gets further wars, more enemies, and more suffering. The practical evidence should be clear to all, including*

*those who have no moral objections to war. War does not work, not even for the warriors. Indeed the very presence of the option of war prevents the development and use of other images or conceptual models of response to social disasters. The*

**Q U O T A B L E**

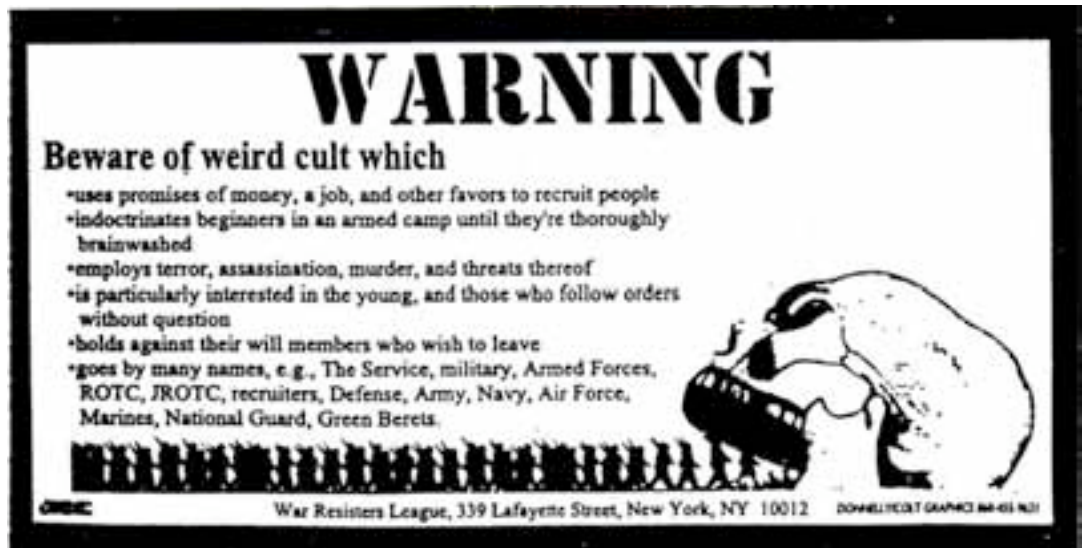
*"I would no more teach children military training than I would teach them arson, robbery, or assassination." — Eugene Debs*

*notion of the enemy stands in the way to understanding the cause of social earthquakes, just as the notion of angry Gods once stood in the way of understanding the causes of natural disasters. Is it too much to hope that, in the wake of September 11, a radical change in image, away from war and enemy, becomes possible?"*

From *The Ursula Franklin Reader, Pacifism as a Map* page 135.

## John Buttrick - fond remembrance

Long time Conscience Canada member, John Arthur Buttrick, died in a car accident near his home on Gabriola Island, BC on July 15, 2007. His wife, Ann (Tatlow) Buttrick, who carries on with their activist tradition, sent us a copy of a wonderful Globe and Mail article about his life. Dated Sept. 26, 2007, the article, entitled, "Rational economist taught with dashes of civil libertarianism, pacifism", shows that Buttrick made impressive contributions to the betterment of humanity over the course of his 87 years. He was a CO during WW II, came to Canada from the US during the Vietnam war and was involved in helping war resisters in recent years. *"Whatever you do, don't join the army,"* was his advice to young people.



## Introducing new board members

### Benno Barg:

Husband of Jean, father of 5 children, blessed with 8 grandchildren. I taught public school for 15 years, worked at Warden Woods Community Centre (Inner City Programs initiated by Mennonite Conference of Eastern Canada) for 23 years, the last 12 as executive director. The following 13 years I worked for my son in the car business and am now retired.

I became involved with peace work (supporting peace and justice in Nicaragua, Labrador, Hebron, Burnt Church and with the Caldwell Nation near Blenheim), because I felt that I, as a member of the Mennonite Church, needed to be more proactive in peace ministry. Consequently I joined Conscience Canada and became a war tax resistor.

### Q U O T A B L E

*"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good." — Clarissa Pinkola Estes*

### Carol Wagner:

Carol Wagner has with great pleasure come to CC as the new treasurer, bringing her "life long passion for detail and an obsession for making things balance". She has been the treasurer for many non-profits and is also on the board of the local Society for Community Education, as well as doing

### Q U O T A B L E

*"Respecting other,s right is the way to peace." — Benito Juárez*

bookkeeping work for hire.

She and her husband, Jan Steinman, have moved to Canada to start an ecovillage. They love creative work and have opened a gallery at their home on Salt Spring Island. You can see some of their work at [www.CraftedbyCarol.com](http://www.CraftedbyCarol.com), and learn more about the ecovillage at: [www.EcoReality.org](http://www.EcoReality.org).

### Linda Foy:

Linda Foy is our newest board member, from rural New Brunswick. The mother of three teens who are also concerned about peace, she earns her living doing contract work,

### Q U O T A B L E

*"Violence is the last refuge of people with nothing left to say" — Pierre E. Trudeau, from Mystic Trudeau: the Fire and the Rose, by B.W. Powe*

mainly harassment and human rights investigations. She is also a co-facilitator in the "Alternatives to Violence" program at Dorchester Penitentiary. Linda is a Quaker who is on the facilitation team for a spiritual deepening program run by the United Church. Another main focus of her activism is environmental sustainability.

### Q U O T A B L E

*"The tragedy of modern war is not so much that young men die but that they die fighting each other... instead of their real enemies back home in the capitals." — Edward Abbey*

We look forward to getting to know these new board members better, all the more so since their interests link to those of others active with Conscience Canada.



# Conscience Canada 2008 Annual General Meeting

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

In our effort to hold our Annual General Meeting in various parts of Canada, we will hold Conscience Canada's 2008 Annual General Meeting in Toronto, during the Canadian Department of Peace Initiative AGM, April 4-6. See details at [www.departmentofpeace.ca](http://www.departmentofpeace.ca).

**A G M I N F O**

- **Date:** Saturday, 5 April 2008
- **Time:** 4 p.m.
- **Place:** Friends' House,  
60 Lowther Ave. Toronto

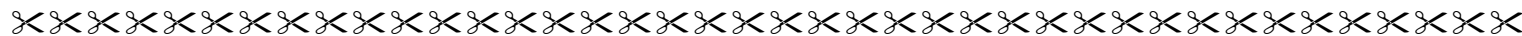
The present AGM Notice, included in the newsletter and sent to all the members' address on record, constitutes the official notice, as required by the Conscience Canada Inc. by-laws (available on request.)

All CC members and friends in the Toronto areas are warmly invited to attend the AGM, followed by the screening of the CC DVD "Work for Peace. Stop Paying for War". We hope to see many of you.

## Agenda:

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the 2007 AGM. (available upon request).
- II. Review of the work done by Conscience Canada during the year.
- III. Election or confirmation of board members. Our by-laws require four officer positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary; in addition there can be Board members at large. Standing for re-election are: Murray Lumley, Jan Slakov, Don Woodside. Standing as new members are: Benno Barg, Linda Foy and Carol Wagner.
- IV. Presentation and Approval of the 2007 financial statements. (available upon request).
- V. Appointment of auditors for 2008.
- VI. Other business.

**If you cannot attend the meeting in person, please send in your proxy below, either by post or e-mail to: [consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca).**



I, (please print) \_\_\_\_\_, a member in good standing of

Conscience Canada, do hereby grant my proxy vote for the 5th April, 2008 Annual General Meeting of CC

to: \_\_\_\_\_ or, in their absence, to any Board Member

of Conscience Canada.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Conscience Canada membership

- **Member:** Open to any person committed to supporting Conscience Canada's objectives and who pays an annual membership fee of \$10. This entitles you to receive CC's newsletters and to vote on all issues at the Annual General Meeting. All "life memberships" dating from an earlier system are honoured.
- **Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation (COMT):** Member who, in addition to the membership fee has deposited funds into the Peace Tax Trust account maintained by Conscience Canada.

**Send in your new or renewed membership today:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership: (\$10.00/yr)                   \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donations to Conscience Canada                \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Peace Tax Trust Deposit (full or symbolic)   \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
   total funds enclosed   \$ \_\_\_\_\_   cheque payable to Conscience Canada

**Order your free copy of the DVD 'Work for Peace. Stop Paying for War' (see below)**

*Address correction requested. Please let us know if you desire Conscience Canada information material, or more or fewer copies of the newsletter.*

**Mail to: Conscience Canada, 901-70 Mill Street, Toronto, ON M5A 4R1**

*A new DVD by CONSCIENCE CANADA*

*[www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca) - [consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca)*

Would you like to stop paying for war? Find out how by watching **Work for Peace. Stop Paying for War**, an 11 minute film by Conscience Canada and Sarah Zammit.

This fast-paced, informative, emotionally engaging DVD on conscientious objection to military taxation invites us to refuse to finance war and to redirect our taxes to peace. Notables such as Justice Thomas Berger, Hon. Jean Augustine, MP Bill Siksay, and others, discuss a wide range of issues, from the conscientious objector Tax Bill, and a citizen's responsibility to obey conscience, to nonviolent interventions, personal experience and 'how-to' advice.

To get your own free copy of: **Work for Peace. Stop Paying for War** SEND IN THIS COUPON or e-mail: [consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca). Donations are welcome. Please also suggest names of people who may be interested to receive the film.