

Work For Peace... Stop Paying For War

Conscience Canada



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Dialogue starts here!

Jan Slakov

The main focus of this newsletter is on what members and supporters of Conscience Canada, have to say, not only in letters to government or to the media, but through other means as well. Marguerite Bilodeau of Montréal has even written a play which can be used in conjunction with our DVD to inspire reflection and action for peace. (See page 3.)

While it's impossible to include excerpts from all the letters we have received, we hope you will find the section of the newsletter devoted to letter excerpts inspiring and thought-provoking. And we'd like to encourage you to send us more. An ecovillage I'm involved in has found a way to create dialogue between its members by inviting them to share questions and answers via e-mail. We'd like to give this technique a try. Our first question is: **"What propelled you to take an interest in conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT)?"**

We hope some of you will take the time to respond and that there will

be space in our spring newsletter to share some of your responses. We also welcome suggestions for future questions to put to our readers.

We know that dialogue can be a vital pillar of nonviolence. Let's see how it will work for us.

Jan Slakov, has been a peace activist for most of her 49 years. She sees COMT as particularly useful for making people aware of their personal responsibility for supporting - or undermining - peace and justice.

Muriel Duckworth celebrates 100 years

Public celebration and concert planned

Muriel Duckworth will be celebrating her 100th birthday this fall as will many of her friends and admirers across the country. She's a long-time member of Conscience Canada and we are happy to take this opportunity to send her our best wishes too. There will be a big public celebration and concert on Nov. 2 at Halifax's Dalhousie Arts Centre. People are invited to make donations to Oxfam

Canada's Jack and Muriel Duckworth Fund for Active Global Citizenship. This fund replaces the former Jack and Muriel Duckworth Foundation and will be used to support Oxfam Canada's work in Canada and overseas, particularly with youth and women who are exercising their rights to be heard in order to create peaceful states and communities where social justice prevails and poverty ends.

Cheques may be made to "Oxfam Canada – Duckworth Fund" and mailed to Oxfam Canada, National Fundraising Office, 210-410 Adelaide St. West, Toronto, ON M5V 1S8. Donations can also be made by phone 1-800-466-9326

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The quote below, from a member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace / la Voix des femmes (VOW), speaks eloquently of how Muriel has had a wonderful impact on many people's lives. It was written by a VOW member during Muriel's presidency of that organization, from 1967 - 1971:

"You are one of the most charming, tactful and conscientious people I have met. Combining all these "firsts" in one person makes you pretty well unique. Secure in the faith that your balance, objectivity and sense of humour will survive my outbursts of petulance, I keep sending off complaints, protests (and goodness knows what else!) in your general direction. Please believe, you are meant to be the



Muriel Duckworth, from the cover of "Muriel Duckworth: a very active pacifist," used with the permission of Fernwood Publishing.

reception centre, but not the recipient of my criticism... As leader and peacemaker among such a group of strong-minded women as VOW members appear to be, you have done much good and no harm at all that I can see. For all of it, thank you. And carry on!"

(cited in *Muriel Duckworth: A Very Active Pacifist* by Marion Douglas Kerans)

Even 10 years after it was first published, Kerans' book on Muriel is still a big seller for Fernwood. Here's another quote from the book, this one from Muriel herself:

"Voices like ours are needed now more than ever for peace, for civil rights, for children, for a life on this planet, for our grandchildren. War is stupid. To bring about the changes we need in society, all of us must speak out and act."

Department of Peace and the Peace Tax Fund

Don Woodside

Our AGM was held immediately following the national convention of the Campaign for a Department of Peace, and a number of those who came to our meeting had been at the conference for the weekend.

I am sure many of you are familiar with the movement, but let me make a brief summary. A Department of Peace (DoP) would be a federal department under which would be all of the government initiatives for peace-building, from funding NGOs, to a non violent peace force, to human rights work and international development initiatives. Its goal would be the development of a culture of peace and non-violence, and ways to implement this on a national scale. The ideas are remarkably similar to our own conclusions in our 'Dialogues' report after Conscience Canada's coast to coast dialogues on non violent security in 2004 (see <http://www.consciencecanada.ca/references/#Dialogues> for more information.).

The DoP would have a seat at the cabinet table, just as a ministry of defense does, but it would bring a very different voice for national security. It is as radical an idea as a ministry of the environment was 30 years ago. And just as in the case of the MoE, having a place in

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 at www.ConscienceCanada.ca. Please let us know your preference.

B O A R D

Benno Barg, Murray Lumley, Jan Slakov, Carol Wagner, Don Woodside. Newsletter design: Jan Steinman.

cabinet does not assure that it will have its way in all cases, but it can bring a much deeper understanding of the processes of peace than is possible from the ministries of defense, foreign affairs, or international trade.

The DoP initiative has quickly gathered a lot of support, with at least 10 chapters and many members. There were several MPs present through most of the weekend conference, and speakers representing Liberal, NDP, and Green parties. As the article in *Peace Magazine* (July / Sept 08) says, this is a movement with legs.

Q U O T A B L E

"One little person giving all her time to peace, can make news. Many people, giving some of their time, can make history."
— Peace Pilgrim

How does this relate to Conscience Canada? At the conference, one of the MPs said she is in favour of taking all the money being spent for war and transferring it to peace-building. A DoP would be responsible for developing nonviolent peace-building programs; by supporting it we demonstrate what it is we want to support, even as we explain what it is that we refuse to support. Presumably, the military portion of a conscientious objector's taxes would be allocated to the DoP, once our right to freedom of conscience gained official

recognition. Conscience Canada runs a Peace Tax Fund so that some day, our war-resisted taxes can be used by government for peaceful purposes. A DoP would fit the bill nicely. And when asked to explain what we want, we wouldn't be pulling potential peaceful uses out of a hat, but out of a government structure. It would be quite natural for Peace Tax legislation, such as Bill C 460, to identify the DoP as a potential end use for our military tax dollars. They would go to security and peace at the same time. I encourage you to go to DoP website and look at the executive summary, for a more detailed description of the initiative.

Just as a DoP fits the needs of Conscience Canada, I think that CC offers something to the supporters of a DoP. Not all of

them have the same objection to military intervention as we do, but for those who do, tax redirection can be another step in expressing the strength of their aversion to the current methods of international conflict resolution.. The title of our DVD says it succinctly: *Work for Peace, Stop Paying for War*.

Don Woodside became the new president of CC at the April AGM. He has been active on the CC board and in promoting conscientious objection for several years. He showed the DVD to a number of groups including: a peace organization's semi annual gathering; which lead to the Hamilton District Labour Council; which lead to a film series put on by a teachers' organization; which lead to a high school peace and justice conference. In these and other showings, he found the DVD to be received enthusiastically. Don lives in Hamilton with his wife, where he leads a busy 'retired' life.

G E T I N T O T H E A C T !

If you are planning a special event to present Conscience Canada's DVD "Work for peace, Stop paying for war;" you might like to take a look at "-STOP-," a new play written for Conscience Canada by Montreal book and song writer Marguerite Bilodeau. This 40 minute play (available in English and French) blends information and humour. The action takes place in a Montreal family living room and revolves around income tax, military spending, peace marches, Afghanistan, army recruitment and Raging grannies. It ends with the showing of Conscience Canada's DVD.

Linking this play with the "Work for peace, Stop paying for war" DVD would be a great way for schools, colleges and other groups to offer a positive alternative to military recruiting efforts. You can order a copy of the DVD through the Conscience Canada website. To order the play, please contact: Margueritebilodeau88@sympatico.ca.

Woodside takes helm of Conscience Canada

Bruna Nota to continue active involvement

Conscience Canada's former vice-president, Don Woodside, has become our president, taking over from Bruna Nota, who has stepped down. Board members wanted, somehow, to recognize the wonderful work done by Bruna, without whom Conscience Canada might well have folded by now. She instigated a breath-taking number of projects and saw them through to completion, earning a great store of credibility for CC. Bruna did not, of course, do all this alone, but she provided the leadership. It was a model of



Don Woodside and Bruna Nota with her "thank you" gift from the board of Conscience Canada.

Financial Update

Carol Wagner (treasurer) and Don Woodside (president)

Conscience Canada is very grateful for the large donations which have enabled us to distribute the "Work for Peace, Stop Paying for War" DVD free of charge. Many people who requested copies of the DVD have also made donations, which is very helpful too, as the DVD is costing close to \$15,000 to produce, even though much of the work has been donated.

We want to set aside some funds to make a few changes to the DVD and to help people who may wish to pursue legal avenues in contesting CRA claims. And it is really important to ensure that CC remains viable, so our approach to spending continues to be a conservative one.

(The auditor's statement appears on the bottom of the membership form on the next page.)

collegial, democratic leadership, quite the opposite of the hierarchical "military" style typical of many institutions.

It wasn't easy to think of a good gift for Bruna; she's not one for accumulating lots of "stuff". Her husband Ian told us that they had been making do without a teapot... and Don's brother makes beautiful pottery so our problem was solved and some board members have already enjoyed great tea from that pot on recent visits.

Although she is no longer on the board, Bruna continues to mail out DVDs and the newsletter and has provided invaluable help with editing this newsletter and other tasks.



Dan Jenkins was one of the CC AGM's featured speakers.

A war tax court case in the United States (Jenkins v. IRS Commissioner) has exhausted all appeals in the federal courts. It can now be used as a vehicle for the submission of a group complaint to a United Nations human rights review procedure.

More information about this will be provided in a future newsletter.

Q U O T A B L E

"Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount." — General Omar N. Bradley

Legal ramifications of our cause

Jan Slakov

In June, 2008, a University of Victoria law student, Darren McLeod, sent us a copy of a paper he had written on conscientious objection to military taxation. It covers the history of recognition of conscientious objection in Canada, and argues that it would be reasonable for Government to set up a legal means to allow taxpayers who are conscientious objectors to redirect the military portion of their taxes towards nonviolent programs.

Darren has given Conscience Canada permission to share his paper with anyone who requests it. It argues convincingly that respecting a person's right to conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT) would not undermine our democracy, but strengthen it.

The paper discusses some of the interesting legal ramifications arising from recognizing the right to conscientiously object to military taxation. For instance, some people would surely argue that their consciences were offended by having to pay for abortions or for agriculture involving the killing of animals. How would a court distinguish between frivolous and sincere violations of conscience? The discussion of the "true threat"

which likely motivated judges to refuse to seriously consider the argument for conscientious objection to military taxation, and the reasons why the case has never been tested against the provisions of the Charter of Rights (a Section

Q U O T A B L E

"I tell you that there is a mightier heroism still — the heroism not of the sword, but the cross... Who is the greater adventurer, he who goes against the enemy with swords and guns, or he who goes with naked hands? ... Peace is the great adventure... And only when the world conceives it so, will the world be drawn after it again. —Maude Royden, "The Great Adventure: The Way to Peace", pamphlet, 1915, quoted in Women Against the Iron Fist by Sybil Oldfield

1 analysis) makes for fascinating reading.

We would like to thank Darren McLeod for sharing his work with us and hope others will find it of interest as well. It is on our website at: http://www.ConscienceCanada.ca/references/mcleod_essay.pdf.

Darren McLeod was born and raised in Kitimat, British Columbia. He is currently in his second year of studying Law at the University of Victoria; previously, he studied English at the University of Northern British Columbia.

"Peace Tax" letters inspire and inform

To inspire and inform, below are excerpts from letters written to elected representatives regarding the need for "peace tax" legislation. In most instances copies of these letters were sent to the other party leaders or finance critics, as well as to the writer's local MP.

1. April 29, 2008

Dear Minister Flaherty:

...I am a Quaker (Religious Society of Friends) and, as you may know, one of the foundations of our faith is our peace testimony. I cannot, in conscience, contribute to preparing for war or war making. It is vitally important to me that the government pass a bill to enable those of us who are conscientious objectors to military taxation (taxes used for producing, selling and buying weapons, and sending others to kill or to be trained to kill) to redirect the military portion of our taxes towards non-military means of security building.

I would support a Department of Peace where Canadians are recruited, trained and deployed to promote the non-violent resolution of conflicts and to help build a sustainable peace in partnership with local communities. Such a Peace Department could also support human rights protection, the control of the arms trade and international disarmament. Moreover, Canada could work towards eradicating the true causes of war.

Linda Foy, Port Elgin, New Brunswick

2. April 30, 2008

Prime Minister Harper:

I am not opposed to paying taxes that would be used creatively and constructively. I am opposed to violence, deceit (on the part of the Canadian government towards their own people) and simplistic thinking in black and white terms. Such thinking involves writing off some of our fellow human beings entirely, by refusing even to negotiate with them

Q U O T A B L E

"I will not pay my income tax if we [the U.S.] go to war with Iran. Let us hope sanity prevails, but sanity is a rare commodity in a White House committed to a policy of permanent war with nefarious aims [...] A country that exists in a state of permanent war cannot exist as a democracy. Our long row of candles is being snuffed out. We may soon be in darkness. Any resistance, however symbolic, is essential." —Chris Hedges, author of "War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning"

Note: The feminist peace group, Code Pink, is encouraging people to sign up to do as Hedges suggests, to say that they will stop paying taxes if the US attacks Iran, as a way of trying to prevent any such attack. More info at: <http://www.codepink4peace.org/article.php?id=3768>

diplomatically.[...] I cannot agree that force is a viable alternative, just because negotiation would be difficult.

[...] Why don't you create safe places for discussions, negotiations and bargaining with the Taliban, as well as the other tribal leaders, that would demonstrate our good faith in ultimately empowering the people to help themselves and then returning the land to the Afghan people as a whole?

Dr. K. Janet Rich, Toronto, Ontario

3. April 28, 2008

Greetings Mister Harper:

... I came from Iraq over 50 years ago. I see my country of birth destroyed, my suffering countrymen living in fear, because of an invasion brought about by lies and political ambitions. I see Afghanistan being submitted to the same fate. I weep when I see young Canadians and young Afghans, fed the same lies, dying and killing, to satisfy the political ambitions of the powerful.

And here I am, paying with my taxes for all the horror of these wars. I urge you, Mister Prime Minister, to allow me and all my fellow Canadians who share my views, to deposit in a Peace Fund, the portion of my taxes used to feed the war machine, presently in Afghanistan, but who knows where in the future.

Louis Munther Azzaria, Ste. Julienne, QC

4. April 29, 2008

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

... As it states on the back of my Peace Tax Return, "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 - and to be killed."

Also, "with \$100 we could buy 10 blankets for refugees or 10 hand grenades".

The Canadian government has currently opted for the hand grenades and much worse means of killing.

As some have said, "Bombing with bread and blankets would be much more effective ways of ending tyranny and genocide," for war breeds more violence, not peace.

Q U O T A B L E

"If you start changing regimes, where do you stop? This is the problem. Who is next? Give me the list, the priorities. When someone is working for peace it is never useless." —Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, while in Mexico discussing the Iraq war.

I want to see my taxes used to actually meet the needs of people, both in Canada and abroad, not fill the pockets of of the military complex, where Canada is now the 6th largest supplier of armaments to the world.

Eileen Wtewaall, Salt Spring Island, B.C.

5. May 4, 2008

Dear Mr. Harper:

In 2006-07 it is estimated that Canada spent \$1.4 billion fighting a war in Afghanistan. We are well on the way to spending that

Q U O T A B L E

"The Canadian peace movement plays an essential part in the new Canadian dialogue: for the peace movement challenges assumptions, not just policy, and forces us to examine those assumptions more closely." —External Affairs Minister Joe Clark

amount again this year. Canadian families mourn the loss of over 80 military personnel. The Afghanistan death toll is unpublished but is likely in the tens of thousands. As in all wars, many are left to suffer with life-long disabilities and loss of their local support systems.

Canadians do not condone violence in our families and communities. But through taxation, which we have no choice but to pay, we are assisting our government to use military violence to try and settle a conflict in another country. I urge you to support Bill C460 which would allow Canadians to

redirect all their taxes into a special account that can be used for any purpose except a military purpose. As a member of Conscience Canada, I want to "work for peace and stop paying for war." I am convinced that as long as military campaigns are so handsomely financed, no real effort will be made to succeed at peacemaking.

Mary Gradnitzer, Quesnel, B.C.

6. April 30, 2008

Dear Minister (Flaherty):

[S] As a Christian, I am commanded by my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to love my enemies and pray for those who might persecute me (Matthew 5).

I saw the need for this kind of love most clearly this year when I spent time in Colombia with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT).

[...]Canada has supported this government's [of Colombia] so-called "Justice and Peace Law" which purports to demobilize and rehabilitate these paramilitaries. [...] Canada should be ashamed of its association with a violent and corrupt regime and should instead be seeking ways to support non-violent peacemaking initiatives in Colombia and the rest of the world. I believe that more and more people are seeing the failure of arms in Colombia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc. I believe that within a hundred years it will be just as unthinkable to condone war as it is to condone one human being owning another human being as property. Canada can be a leader here in abolishing war just as we were a leader in the early moves to abolish slavery.

Douglas J. Pritchard, Toronto, Ontario

7. July 28 '08

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

...In your response, you state: "Allowing taxpayers to direct their tax dollars to only certain programs and services would be neither democratic nor practical." I agree

with this statement in a broad sense. Of course it is not practical to allow taxpayers to pick and choose which programs they wish to support from among the myriad services and programs that the Federal Government funds. It would be democratic in the strictest sense, but utterly impractical.

However, conscientious objection to the

Q U O T A B L E

"War is the order of the day, and people just love it. War makes people feel important - gives the wives something to knit socks for, the husbands something to shoot at, take a side on - and the only way to woo people away from that kind of excitement [...] is give everybody some other excitement that competes with it. Like Martin Luther King did in the South. — Joan Baez

use of armed force to achieve (or at least attempt to promote) a nation's political/business interests is quite a different matter from, say, not wishing to fund radio broadcasts in Innu, or disagreeing with the use of taxpayers' money to sponsor the Calgary Stampede, or not wanting to maintain the Trans Canada Highway in Newfoundland. Canada has a long history of welcoming pacifists and those who refuse to fight, including Doukhobours from Russia and Americans refusing to participate in the war in Vietnam.

[...] I request that you take seriously and act upon the long-standing initiative by Conscience Canada and several elected MPs, to set up a "Peace Tax Fund" into which those Canadian taxpayers who do not wish to support the use of Armed Force could direct the percentage of their federal income tax that is currently used to fund the "Department of Defence". The monies gathered in this fund would be allocated by the Government of Canada to achieve peaceful resolution of conflicts.

A good example of such an initiative was Canada's contribution to making peace in Northern Ireland with the 1998 Belfast

(a.k.a. "Good Friday") Agreement. General John de Chastelain's involvement in this historic (and thus far, lasting) peace-making initiative was something Canadians can be proud of. This is the type of initiative I want Canada to be known for around the world.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter.

"To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men." - Abraham Lincoln

David Beringer, Nelson, BC

8. mars, 2008

lettre adressée au ministre Flaherty :

Je tiens particulièrement à vous faire part de mon opposition à la guerre que mène actuellement le Canada en Afghanistan et à l'augmentation des dépenses militaires pour cette guerre. Il est naïf de croire que cette guerre est faite pour protéger les droits humains et promouvoir la paix et la démocratie. Elle est plutôt faite pour servir des intérêts économiques et géopolitiques sous l'apparence d'une lutte au terrorisme.

Natalie Brière, Montréal, QC

9. mars, 2008

lettre adressée aux ministres Harper, Flaherty et Mackay :

[...] il existe des alternatives efficaces, et moins coûteuses en argent et en vies humaines, pour faire le travail de défense nationale et de contribution internationale à la construction de la paix et de la justice dans le monde. Nous ne voulons donc pas, comme objecteurs de conscience fiscaux, échapper à nos responsabilités, ni politiques internationales, ni financières nationales.

Dominique Boisvert, Montréal, QC

Letters

Dear Editor,

Could you answer this question for me, please?

When the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) moves to collect what they think I failed to pay, I ask CC to return the money I have deposited in the Peace Tax Trust over the years, and I have never had problems with that. My name then disappears from the list of those whom CC counts as Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation.

I am still a conscientious objector, though!!!

So, now I wonder if it would not be better for me to leave a symbolic deposit so that I am counted among the people who are unequivocally opposed to paying for war, for preparation for war and violence and asking for a change in tax legislation.

Please let me know. In peace and hope,

Bruna Nota

Dear Brunna,

That's a great idea: to leave a symbolic deposit in the Peace Tax Trust so that you will still be counted as a conscientious objector to military taxation.

Of course, anyone can do that, even people whose income is so low they do not owe taxes, and increasing the number of conscientious objectors does help increase the legitimacy of our call for the establishment of a government sponsored means of obtaining "alternate service" for the military portion of our taxes.

Sincerely,

Conscience Canada board members

Made My Day!

The following is an encouraging account of a peace truster's interaction with a member of the public service. Dr. Jane Pritchard (featured in our "Work for Peace" DVD) sent us the story by e-mail:

Here's a tale... I got the usual annual call from Canada Revenue to inform me of my unpaid taxes. The woman on the other end of the phone listened as I explained that I could not in conscience willingly pay for weapons and military support that would wreak more destruction in places like Afghanistan, and that every year I withhold this portion of my taxes and notify the PM and Finance Minister of my decision, while we attempt to create a peaceful alternative.. "well no! she exclaimed, you certainly wouldn't want to see your money put to such use" and then, " I didn't know there was a way you could do this!" I explained that it's not legal but we're looking for a way to make it a legal option; she seemed to grasp that, wished me well in my endeavour, and was interested enough that she might Google Conscience Canada herself.

Made my day, actually!

Peace,

Jane

Note: We know of other encouraging exchanges which members of Conscience Canada have had with non-members. For instance, Murray Lumley got a reply from his MP, the Hon. Maria Minna, in which she said she would support the establishment of a Department of Peace.

Several CC members wrote letters-to-the-editor or articles this tax season. Here are some excerpts:

I believe that the Mennonite Church has the obligation to speak out against war and to refuse to pay for it. I appreciate the letter that our leaders have written to the government on this issue ("Church leaders send military letter . . .," May 14, 2007, page 16), but is that enough? What if five members from each congregation in Mennonite Church Canada were to withhold 8 percent of their federal income tax-that portion of our income tax used to fund military expenditures-and write letters to our government officials and newspapers explaining our action? I think our government would be astounded. At the same time, we could voice our support for the proposed Bill C-460, the Conscientious Objection Act. Once this ball got rolling in our churches, it could snowball.

Benno Barg, Kitchener, Ont.

published in the Canadian Mennonite

Taxes for War

I agree with those who would support our troops by finding a genuine peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan, or by bringing them home.

At tax time we are reminded that every taxpayer is involved in this military adventure. [...] I have been depositing that part of my taxes in the Peace Tax Trust Fund run by Conscience Canada, since 1984. I invite you to consider doing likewise.

Don Woodside

published in the Hamilton Spectator

On May 15, in an interview on CBC radio, Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute in Washington stated that the cost to address climate change, food security, water scarcity, overpopulation and poverty in order to stave off civilization's collapse is \$190 billion per year for the foreseeable future. He thinks this is possible because this amount represents only about one fifth of what the world's nations spend on armaments per year - \$1 trillion.

On the same day, Prime Minister Harper and Defence Minister Mackay announced that Canada would spend \$30 billion on the Department of Defence by 2028. This did not include another unannounced \$20 billion for a total of \$50 billion. Canada is now the sixth-largest supplier of armaments to the world and is NATO's sixth-highest military spender.

Murray Lumley, Toronto
published in the Canadian Memnonite

Dear Editor,

As I prepare to submit my income taxes I have been reflecting on how my tax dollars will be spent. In my daily life I work for peace and I am struck by the irony that 8% of my tax money will be used to fund the military. As someone who is morally opposed to war I find this fact abhorrent.

[...] each year many Canadians choose to direct the military portion of their taxes to a Peace Tax Trust Fund. More information about how this can be accomplished, including a 2007 Peace Tax Return, is available from Conscience Canada: www.consciencecanada.ca

Sincerely,
 Anna Kirkpatrick
 Nelson, BC

published in the Nelson Daily News

...refusing to pay war taxes can be a very powerful act. It raises awareness about the role our taxes and other financial interactions often have in fostering militarism. Former US Secretary of State, General Alexander Haig made this link explicit when he said, while watching a large anti-war demonstration: "Let them demonstrate, just as long as they continue to pay their taxes."

[...]

With world military spending now well over the one trillion dollar mark, it is nearly impossible to fathom how out of control military spending has gotten. But the World Game Institute (http://iggi.unesco.or.kr/web/iggi_docs/01/952580686.pdf, p. 6) has tallied up how much it would cost to fund 17 programs for "what the world wants", including landmine removal, eliminating starvation, providing

**I N T E R E S T E D
I N H E L P I N G ?**

New board members for Conscience Canada are most welcome and your contributions will be much appreciated. Even if you are not able to help, please think of someone who cares deeply about ending war and militarism and invite them to become a member and maybe even join the board. For more information, contact Don Woodside woodside@mcmaster.ca / (905) 522-8048 or Jan Slakov js@saltspring.com / (250) 537-5251.

clean, safe energy through efficiency and renewables, providing health care and AIDS control, stopping deforestation and soil erosion and more. That comes to less than one third of what is squandered on militarism.

Jan Slakov, Salt Spring Island, BC
published in Briarpatch Magazine

