

Work For Peace... Stop Paying For War

Conscience Canada

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Conscience In Canada Today Histoires de conscience recherchées *

BY JAN SLAKOV

In 1982 the founder of Conscience Canada, Edith Adamson, stated: "War now depends more on money than on personnel; it only took twelve men to drop the bomb over Hiroshima, but it took millions, perhaps billions, of taxpayers' dollars in Canada, Britain and the United States to develop that bomb." This awareness, along with our commitment to follow the leadings of our conscience, motivates people to join Conscience Canada and work to bring an end to war.

Learning about the experiences of others helps us develop our understanding of and ability to act on the dictates of our conscience. I am sure that is part of the reason why Conscience Canada published a book in 1999 entitled *Risking for Change*:



CO Ed Abbott (at left with dog and hat) with the Friends Ambulance Unit in Kunming, China, during WWII.

Stories of Ordinary People.

In the interests of continuing the collection and the dialogue, the CC board is inviting members to collect stories of conscience so we can share them.

These can be stories of conscientious objectors to conscription. Those stories are precious as COs from WW 2 are quite elderly now. But the stories may also be about other acts of conscience.

For example, in our Spring, 2007 issue, we shared the story of a Douk-honor businessman who turned down a lucrative contract from the military because of his convictions; Dr. Jerilynn Prior shared one in the

Fall, 2009 issue and there is a very brief description of CO Ed Abbott's experience in the Fall, 2011 issue.

Reflect on the role conscience has played in your life, and if you feel inspired, send your story to us (using the contact info on p.1 of the newsletter).

* Une invitation aux sympathisants de nous envoyer vos histoires de conscience est affichée sur notre site: www.consciencecanada.ca/fr/
Please see page 3 for sample story.

Jan edits the Conscience Canada newsletter.

C O N T E N T S

WANTED:

Stories/Histoires de/of Conscience p.1
CC AGM 2013 p.2

Books:

Peacemaker in Afghanistan p.4
Canada @ Peace p.4
Policing in Canada p.4
Idle No More p.5
Membership p.6

INSERT: 2013 Peace Tax Form

CONSCIENCE CANADA 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OFFICIAL NOTICE

Date and time: Saturday, April 6, 2013 at 2 p.m.
Place: Danforth Mennonite Church, 2174 Danforth Ave., Toronto,
 (a little more than 1 block east of Woodbine Station)
 (street and city parking lot space available nearby)
Speaker: Chris Sabas, Christian Peacemaker Teams

Agenda:

- I. Approval of the minutes of the 2012 AGM (available upon request)
- II. Review of the work done by Conscience Canada during the year
- III. Confirmation of board members standing for re-election: David Bechtel, Mary Groh, Anna Kirkpatrick, Murray Lumley, Jan Slakov, Dwyer Sullivan, Eric Unger, Don Woodside
- IV. Presentation and Approval of the 2012 financial statements (available upon request)
- V. Appointment of auditors for 2013
- VI. Transition to new federal rules of incorporation
- VII. Other business
- VIII. Talk by Chris Sabas on Protesting Drone Warfare, 3 p.m.

Chris Sabas, presently a member of the Toronto-based Aboriginal Justice Team of Christian Peacemaker Teams, has used her training as an American lawyer to support and advise anti-war activists in her home state. She participated in the protests in 2011 and 2012 against the use of drones controlled from the Hancock Air Force base at Syracuse, N.Y., which are striking targets in Afghanistan and killing civilians. Several of the activists have received prison sentences in spite of Chris' efforts. These anti-drone protests will be the subject of her address to Conscience Canada on April 6. Please invite your friends to hear Chris speak at our AGM, on April 6th.

The present AGM Notice, included in the newsletter and sent to all the members' addresses on record, constitutes the official notice, as required by the Conscience Canada Inc. by-laws. Please let us know if you want to receive a copy of the by-laws electronically or by mail.

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, do not forget to send your proxy below for your vote, either by post or by e-mail to: info@consciencecanada.ca

I, (please print) _____, a member in good standing of Conscience Canada, do hereby grant my proxy vote for the April 6th, 2013, Annual General Meeting of Conscience Canada to: _____ or in their absence to any Board Member of Conscience Canada.
Signature: _____



Chris Sabas at Grassy Narrows First Nation, October, 2011

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

Dave Bechtel, Mary Groh, Anna Kirkpatrick, Murray Lumley, Jan Slakov, Dwyer Sullivan, Eric Unger, Don Woodside

A Sample Story

For the above-mentioned collection



Right: Bob Wild, Salt Spring Island

BY BOB WILD

In the fall of 1946 I was one of a group of McGill students who picketed a freighter in Montreal harbour loaded with Canadian arms for Chiang Kai Chek.

Since then I have participated in many actions 'for Peace and Justice', but over the years the sparse record of positive results had been discouraging. In the early 80's, however, I read a report which altered my perspective on my efforts.

It seems there had been a Quaker-sponsored nation-wide action in the USA to protest American participation in the Viet Nam war. The action required individuals to stand in a public place and to wear a sign indicating who they were and what they were protesting.

On a prominent bridge in Washington, DC, a young man took up his post and was challenged by an

aggressive fellow citizen: "What the hell do you think you are doing? You won't change anyone's mind."

To which the Quaker lad replied,

WW II CO Stories (book)

The book, *Alternative Service for Peace*, is a collection (350 pages) of individual WW II stories and photos of COs. These stories & photos were assembled by Seniors for Peace in the hope that Mennonites would remember their spiritual heritage. The book is about 13 years old, but contains fascinating information -- even the story of our government's attempts at making an aircraft carrier (2000' X 300') out of ice! Who knew? ISBN 0-9683050-0-8

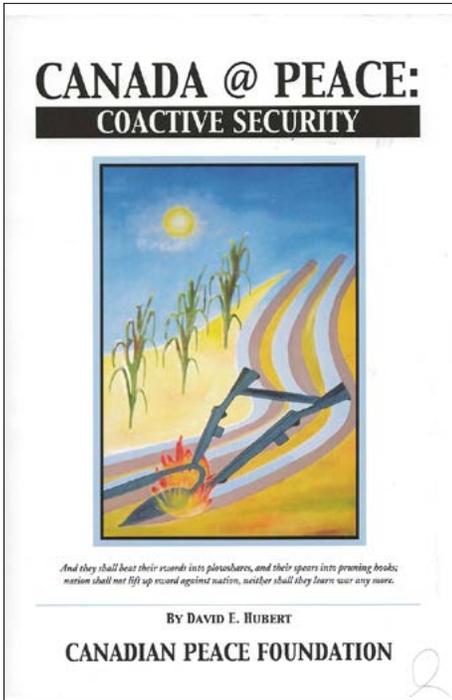
From the Mennonite Confession of Faith:

"As disciples of Christ, we do not prepare for war, or participate in war or military service. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus also empowers us to love enemies, and...to resist evil without violence. Led by the Spirit...we witness to all people that violence is not the will of God...We give our ultimate loyalty to the God of grace and Peace..."

(CC board member Eric Unger's article, "Are you paying for peace or war?" appears in the Jan. 2013 issue of Canadian Mennonite magazine.)

"I am just making sure they don't change mine".

Bob Wild's concern for social justice was first piqued in Montreal as a teenager in a church study using the book titled "Christianity and Social Order". Soon after, in the McGill University unit of the Student Christian Movement, he was drawn to Jesus of Nazareth as a prophet of social justice. After ordination to ministry in the Anglican Church, he was active in "Ten Days for World Development" and its later incarnation as KAIROS, as well as serving for several years on the National Committee of the Anglican Fund for World Relief and Development. Now, in his 80s, his horizons include actions to challenge humanity's destruction of the natural world.

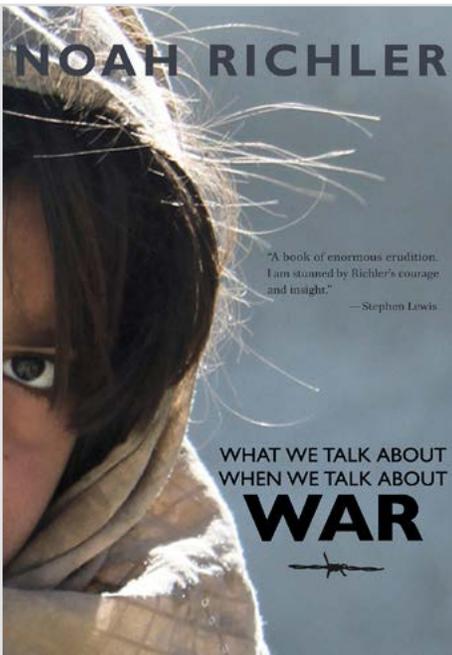


In his book, *Canada @ Peace: Coactive Security*, Dave Hubert describes how Canada could be defended by non-violent, Gandhian means. If Canada converted its \$21,000,000,000 military budget to building peace and overcoming the causes of conflict and violence in the world, Canada would be the most respected and admired nation in the global village. Canada’s increasingly multicultural base makes it natural that Canada should pursue this approach.

To order a copy, contact Dave Hubert dehubert@telus.net (780) 462-6234

Concerned About Policing in Canada?

Canada @ Peace includes an eye-opening chapter on policing. Jan Slakov is very concerned about the state of policing in Canada, especially in BC, and is eager to work with others to improve policing, in particular so as to ensure that the RCMP does not become an arm of political and wealth protection and to promote community based policing. If anyone would like to work with Jan on forming a citizen’s group on the issue, please contact her at janslakov@shaw.ca.



CC board member Murray Lumley wrote a review of Noah Richler’s book, *What We Talk About When We Talk About War* for the Canadian Just Peace Network. He concluded: “Reading it left me with a sense of optimism that Canadians are not about to be turned into warriors by a few Conservatives, military historians and journalists.”

Making Friends Among The Taliban

Book Review of: *A Peacemaker’s Journey in Afghanistan* by Jonathan P. Larson

BY MARY GROH

Dan Terry was one of ten workers ambushed and killed in 2010 on their way back to Kabul after delivering medical service in a remote area of the Hindu Kush. The author, a life-long friend of his, went to Afghanistan the following year to interview local people who had been associated with Dan Terry over the course of more than three decades. He heard stories, told with affection, of a man who was fluent in Dari, who dressed in local attire, and was motivated by a sincere care for people and a genuine interest in their culture, their traditions and their mountains. His life had been

dedicated to improving their lives in any way he could.

Many were the times when hostility disappeared as Dan Terry extended unexpected friendship, even to Taliban insurgents. One time he was taken hostage on a back road. He so captivated his captor that the man eventually had a sheep slaughtered, and served Dan kebabs before he set him free. Some time later they met again by chance on another remote road, but this time in real friendship.

On another occasion, stopping for lunch in a poppy field, Dan and a companion were surprised by an

Continued of page 6

Nonviolence and Idle No More

BY JAN SLAKOV

Have you ever noticed that conscientious objectors tend to understand the call to resist violence in all aspects of their lives? The connection between conscientious objection and other movements, such as voluntary simplicity or social justice, implies an understanding that nonviolence is really all about our relationships.

The Idle No More movement is also fundamentally about relationships. The mission statement on the official INM website makes this clear:

“Idle No More calls on all people to join in a revolution which honors and fulfills Indigenous sovereignty which protects the land and water. Colonization continues through attacks to Indigenous rights and damage to the land and water. We must repair these violations, live the spirit and intent of the treaty relationship, work towards justice in action, and protect Mother Earth.”

In a press release dated January 14, 2013, Idle No More founders, organizers and Elders speak specifically of their commitment to nonviolence:

“Idle No More has a responsibility to resist current government policies in a Peaceful and Respectful way. It can be done. It can be done without aggression or violence. This is an energetic, exciting and transformative time.”

The commitment to nonviolence was tested early on in a heart-breaking but also hugely moving episode that seems to have been largely overlooked.

“There was a woman, who was taken by two non-native guys, raped and left for dead,” stated Chief Peter Collins, the Chief of Fort William First Nation. Collins says “It is a hate crime against our community.” This is the opening line in an article from the news outlet NetNewsledger.com, based in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The victim of this attack spoke out, saying, “You need to be vigilant, travel together and be safe. Protect and love each other!



Idle No More spokesperson Joyce Hunter speaking at Fort William First Nation, Dec. 30, 2012 ©NetNewsledger
Photo by Nathan Ogden

Please do not react with violence to this attack.” [See <http://www.netnewsledger.com/2012/12/30/be-vigilant-travel-together-and-be-safe-idle-no-more-thunder-bay/>]

All over Canada, people of native and non-native ancestry are connecting

with each other to create this transformative movement. Conscience Canada hopes to contribute to building those connections. More information is available on our website at www.consciencecanada.ca.

“We need to learn to be good ancestors.”

Chief Frank Meuse, L’isitkuk/Bear River First Nation

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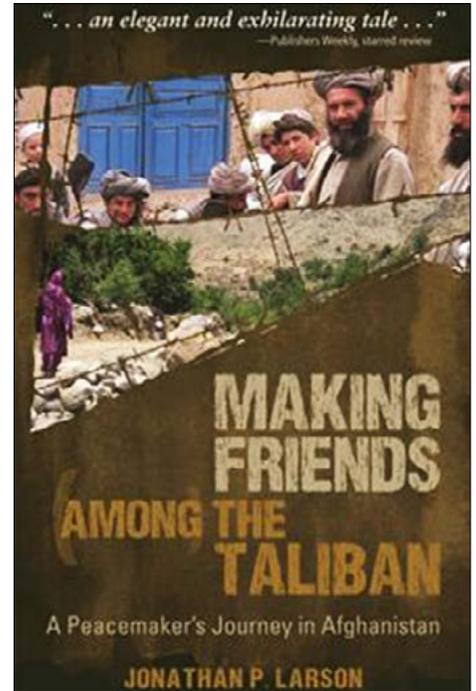
armed youth, frightened and seemingly preparing to shoot them. Dan approached the boy fearlessly, with arms spread wide, and spoke in such a reassuring and fatherly way that the boy, inwardly disarmed, broke down sobbing in Dan's arms.

This small book is full of such stories of the larger-than-life part Dan Terry played in working, unarmed and fearless, with Afghans of all stripes: in shuras (councils of elders), in development projects, in conflict negotiations, in road blocks and hostage takings. He demonstrated the power of non-violence and of

genuine love to dissolve enmity.

The author writes in a concise but engaging style, always saying the most in the fewest words. This book published by Herald Press in 2012 can be obtained in Canada by calling 1-800-631-6535.

When Conscience Canada faced the prospect of falling apart, for lack of a president, Mary stepped forward to take on that position. Mary brings a joyful presence, a deep commitment to nonviolence in all facets of her life and great competence in many areas (just not computers:)... for which we are most grateful.



Conscience Canada

Membership application / renewal

Membership is open to any person committed to supporting Conscience Canada's objectives.

Address correction requested.

Name: _____ Dated _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

There is no membership fee but donations in support of CC operations would be greatly appreciated. Receipts will be issued for all donations. Persons completing this membership application will receive membership privileges indefinitely unless removal from our mailing list is requested. Let us know if you would like to get involved in helping as a volunteer, or if you would like more (or fewer) copies of the newsletter, or if you would like other informational material. NOTE: We have class sets of a zine and other student-friendly materials.

CC NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION IS MAINLY ONLINE!

Unless we hear otherwise, we will send the newsletter out via email to all members who have email addresses and we will not be sending out paper copies unless a request is made for those.

**Mail to: Conscience Canada, 8 Chandos Dr., Kitchener, ON N2A 3C2
or info@consciencecanada.ca**
