

Work For Peace... Stop Paying For War

Conscience Canada

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“The Candle that Flickers”

While Conscience Canada continues to be “the candle that flickers in the storm, never quite going out,” in some ways this was a banner year. A real highlight was our AGM, when Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish spoke to a large group in Toronto. Board member Murray Lumley recorded his talk on the “Cost of War vs. the Cost of Peace”, which is posted on our website (www.consciencecanada.ca).

Dr. Abuelaish wrote to express his profound gratitude for the event and for the donations amounting to about \$2000.

Board member Eric Unger described CC as “the candle that flickers in the storm” in an article he and Kelly Krauter wrote for the US National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWR-CC). That article mentioned several CC activities, such as the outreach Eric does in Winnipeg at the



Dr. Abuelaish and other members of the Daughters for Life team at their 2016 gala dinner in Toronto

Canadian School of Peacebuilding and the workshop Kelly and other Quebec members, Maryse and Louis Azzaria, organized at the World Social Forum in Montreal.

In addition, thanks mainly to President Mary Groh, CC has, for many years, supported and participated in Hiroshima Day activities in Toronto. While CC does not officially participate in direct action to stop the CAN-SEC weapons bazaar, board member Murray Lumley participated, along with other Christian Peacemaker Team members.

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Murray Lumley's photo of peace movement friends handing out copies of their letter, at the Dept. of Global Affairs, in May, as part of a weekend of action protesting Canada's involvement in militarism, including the CAN-SEC weapons arms trade show

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Outreach Resources

CC's newest board members, Peter Tiessen and Kelly Krauter, each prepared powerpoint presentations, Peter for his congregation and Kelly for the World Social Forum (in French and English). These presentations could be adapted for use in other contexts. Get in touch if you would like to check them out.



The first slide of Kelly's World Social Forum presentation.

"I know that what I have lost. What was taken from me will never come back. But as a physician and a Muslim of deep faith, I need to move forward to the light, motivated by the spirits of those I lost. I need to bring them justice... I will keep moving but I need you to join me in this long journey."

– Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish

Ursula Franklin 1921 - 2016

Ursula Franklin, one of Canada's great thinkers and pacifists, died this summer. This has special meaning for CC, as she supported our efforts and was a dear friend of Bruna Nota, who led CC through the crucial years from 2002 till 2008. Board member Jan Slakov feels a need to ensure that Ursula's example, her thinking, her witness, continue somehow so she has collected articles and quotes which she would be happy to share on request. (Just contact her at janslakov@shaw.ca or (250) 537-5251.)



"At one time we could have hoped that 'some day there would be a war and nobody would come'. Not so today! War can, and is, fought by machines and machine-keepers. The question of whether or not 'somebody' comes has become irrelevant. It is for this reason that the peace tax movement is very important for Friends, since it relocates part of Friends testimony against all wars and violence into the context of modern war preparation." ~ Ursula Franklin

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Murray was one of 8 people who tried to meet with Global Affairs minister Stéphane Dion or staff at the Department. They unfurled a "No More Arms Deals" banner and handed out letters asking that Dion cancel the deal to sell military vehicles to Saudi Arabia.

When board member Jan Slakov spoke at a town hall meeting hosted by her MP, Elizabeth May, as part of the Defence Policy Review, there was an especially enthusiastic round of applause when she spoke about how selling weapons to human rights violators undermines our security. You can find CC's contribution to the Defence Policy Review posted on our website

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, Kelly Krauter, Murray Lumley, Jan Slakov, Dwyer Sullivan, Peter Tiessen, Eric Unger

Introducing Board Member Peter Tiessen

Peter, age 33, is a husband to Lisa Toews, 31, and father of two young boys, Peter V, 4 and Johnathan, 2. I have been married for 5 years and our family lives in Niverville, Manitoba (approximately 30 km SSE of Winnipeg).

Out of high school I embarked on a successful culinary career that lasted just shy of a decade, working in

many reputable establishments across Western Canada. My experience in the kitchen taught me about environmental stewardship, the value and importance of food and the relationships one builds by extending the table.

Since leaving the kitchen, I have graduated from the University of Manitoba and am a Certified Athletic Therapist through the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association and a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

“I took to the project with enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn more about myself and my spiritual beliefs, but also to further my understanding of peace and how I can participate in non-violent conflict resolution.”

ciation. I am currently employed at Innovative Medical Supplies, an orthopedic distributor in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Outside of work our family enjoys many outdoor pursuits, cooking, gardening, various arts and reading together. We are an active, young family that is blessed with many friendships, committed to building

community and encouraging the development of inclusive relationships. I also serve as a board member at our local Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Store.

My interest in Conscience Canada largely began out of a sermon I was preparing for my local church, Glenlea Mennonite in 2014. I volunteered to share with my congregation the story of my grandfather, Art W Dueck, and his experience as a CO in Prince Albert National Park in 1941 and how the Mennonite church today can be a



Peter Tiessen

witness to peace. I took to the project with enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn more about myself and my spiritual beliefs, but also to further my understanding of peace and how I can participate in non-violent conflict resolution. I look forward to my commitment to the Conscience Canada board and hope I can share my insight and skills to serve and defend our freedom of conscience.

White Poppies - From Sept. 21 - Nov. 11

Conscience Canada is now a member of Quebec’s premier peace organization, Échec à la guerre. We have signed on to their article, “Le Canada, défenseur de la paix... vraiment?” (“Canada, defender of peace... really?”) slated for publication on or near the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21. We are working with Échec à la guerre to

see about getting this excellent letter published in English language papers as well.

It highlights the contradiction between Canada’s professed commitment to peace and justice and its actions, such as how Canada is now the world’s second largest exporter of weapons to the Middle East, but comes in at 67th

place in terms of contributions to UN peacekeeping deployments, or Canada’s hosting of the CANSEC weapons bazaar, etc.

It concludes, inviting people to wear white poppies from Sept. 21, the International Day of Peace, to Remembrance Day. Below is the

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As a tribute to Don Woodside, Mary Groh wrote a song to the tune of "My Bonnie".
If you missed the AGM, you can still get the last stanzas right here!:

It's been a joy trav'ling together, But now we must warble "goodbye"; Our flock of peace doves of a feather, We still have a distance to fly.	Are we there yet? We're facing rough waves on the deep blue sea. Bring back, bring back, O bring back Don Woodside to we.
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original French conclusion, with a loose translation into English:

“Il est illusoire de faire la promotion de missions de paix sans s’opposer aux missions offensives menées au sein de l’OTAN. Il est tout aussi vain de prôner la paix sans dénoncer la participation du Canada au commerce mondial des armements et sans exiger maintenant un débat public sur sa nouvelle politique de défense.

Jusqu’au Jour du Souvenir, pour signifier l’opposition citoyenne aux visées militaristes du gouvernement Trudeau, nous porterons le coquelicot blanc. Nous invitons chaleureusement tous ceux et celles qui aspirent à un monde sans guerre à le porter en mémoire de toutes les victimes, majoritairement civiles, des conflits armés.”

“It is hare-brained/illusory to support peace-keeping missions if we don’t oppose offensive NATO missions. Likewise, it’s of no use to

call for peace but fail to denounce Canada’s role in the arms trade. We need a truly public debate on new defence policies.

From Sept. 21 till Remembrance Day, to show citizen opposition to the Trudeau government’s militarism, we will be wearing white poppies. We encourage all those who wish for a world free of war to wear one and to remember all victims of war, for the most part civilians.” (quick & dirty translation of the last bit...)

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 for two years 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.
