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## **Editorial: Focus on Lobbying** by Jan Slakov

Lobbying for peace tax legislation that will facilitate the transition from military "security", to non-violence-based security is clearly a top priority for CC's members, supporters and board. Indeed, one of CC's primary mandates is to "promote a change in law to allow all Canadians the right of conscience to object to military taxation" as guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

With this in mind, we have put together a "kit" with useful resources for lobbying. It includes tips for those wishing to contact their MP in person or in writing, a one-page outline of the history of conscientious objection to military taxation in Canada as well as our new brochure and the 2005 Peace Tax Form (both of which are available in French as well as English).

This kit is available on our web site [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca) but you can also get personal assistance, by contacting Conscience Canada directly or by consulting with members of the CC discussion e-mail list.

It's encouraging that we have found some degree of support from members of each of the parties we met with (Liberal, Conservative, Bloc Québécois and NDP) during our lobby trip to Ottawa in Feb 2005. For example, Peter MacKay, now Minister of Foreign Affairs, was supportive of the idea that government would help fund some of the excellent peace-building work being done by groups such as Peace Brigades International and the Christian Peacemaker Teams. Such an investment would also enable government to become more familiar with alternative, nonviolent ways of intervening in situations of conflict.

Personally, I found meeting with my MP, Conservative Gary Lunn, was interesting and useful. The topic of

peace tax legislation was a good one, because it opened doors to talk about very broad issues, like human rights and how to promote peace. It also gave me an opportunity to acquaint Mr. Lunn with some

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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. Use of any of this material is encouraged with attribution.

Current CC board members: Louise Dixon, Huberte Gautreau, Murray Lumley, Bruna Nota, Jan Slakov, Don Woodside.

of the impressive resources that are available while demonstrating that I have given deep thought to the issues. In the end, we each acknowledge that we can't agree on anything much... except that we both value respectfulness in our relationship.

At times I have wondered if lobbying for peace tax legislation was really my top priority, given how many other important things there are to lobby for. As most of us know very well though, our commitment to conscientious objection is very much related to those other things, and Conscience Canada has helped me, at least, to branch out to learn more about civilian-based defence and peace-building and now the Department of Peace initiative, as well as policing issues, voluntary simplicity, etc. - in short, some of the many other key "ingredients" for creating a future we can say "YES" to.

Of course, as an organization, we need to be cautious about straying from our mandate. Indeed, on page 3 of this newsletter, you will find our summary of the AGM, where that issue was raised. We hope you will like the way we decided to deal with it.

It seems that several people, members, MPs, and others, are quite pleased with the work we have been doing. An anonymous person decided to make a substantial donation to our work, explaining that their desire was for us to continue with our valuable work, rather than spend inordinate amounts of time with fund-raising. Your support and interest keeps us going so, once again, let us tell you how much we appreciate it. As many, probably most of you, know, it is not easy to keep organizations going.

Indeed, Conscience Canada could use more help, including board members. If you or anyone you know is interested, I can assure you that being a CC board member is much more than a "rubber stamp" commit-

ment. But in return for the time and effort board members contribute, they get the satisfaction of doing some substantive work and getting to know a wonderful and wonderfully diverse group of people.

Best wishes always, Jan Slakov

## Lobbying Ideas: For Your Inspiration

We'd like to list here some things CC members have done or intend to do, as a way of providing some idea of the wide variety of lobbying and educational options we might want to engage in:



- Letters to the editor - It's often most effective to respond to something that was published in the paper previously. Sample letters available from CC.
- Distributing CC materials through faith groups. Sample letter to the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto available through CC.
- Calling or e-mailing RADIO & TV broadcasts, when a relevant topic comes up. E.g. Radio Ville-Marie in Montreal & Sherbrooke asked its listeners if they wanted their taxes to be spent on war: 90% of the respondents said "non"!
- Asking questions at all candidates meetings
- Participating in demonstrations such as the one organized by Homes Not Bombs and CC on April 27, '06 at the Revenue Canada office in Toronto

We plan to hold our next AGM in Ottawa in order to renew our lobbying efforts with MPs and others in the spring of 2007. Do let us know if you might be able to join us in this effort.

[Photo: Some of the unruly and dangerous protesters who demonstrated outside the Revenue Canada building in Toronto in April. Courtesy: John Bonnar]

## Update on the Conscientious Objection Act

When we met with MPs and other officials during our Feb. 2005 lobby trip to Ottawa, we learned that several MPs were very open to the idea of funding non-violent security-building measures. Clearly, there is support for redirecting taxes towards nonviolence, rather than simply enabling some taxpayers to opt out of paying for military "security", even if those conscientious objectors were still willing to pay their full share of taxes.

This was something new, for a previous lobby trip had taught us that many government officials were primarily concerned that any conscientious objection act might restrict their ability to determine how taxes were spent, and did not want any such specifications.

MP Bill Siksay, who now represents the Burnaby Douglas riding in BC, introduced the Conscientious Objection Act twice, first as Bill C-397 and this year, as Bill C-348.

We are grateful to him and also to the NDP Peace Advocate and Defence critic, Dawn Black, and her staff, for helping us move forward with the bill. Next time it is introduced, it will include new, more specific wording, such as this:

**"7. The Minister may authorize expenditures to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and charged to the Account for any purpose dealing with non military and non violent alternatives towards peace and security."**

We are also encouraged by another endorsement from the Mennonite Church Canada, which recently passed a resolution in support of enacting "legislation which would allow conscientious objectors to direct the military portion of their taxes to activities of development and peace".

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### June 25, 2006 AGM Friends House in Vancouver

While we had many members with us by proxy and in spirit, this meeting had an exceptionally low turn out, so we were especially grateful for the participation of the few who did make it. And we were honoured to have NDP MPs Bill Siksay and Dawn Black as well as Bill Bhaneja, co-spokesperson of the Canadian Department of Peace initiative, in attendance.

Bill Siksay, whose support for war resisters seeking refugee status in Canada is much appreciated, recently tabled a version of the 'Conscientious Objection Act, designated as Bill C-348. More information on the status of the bill is available above of this issue of the newsletter. We are working towards getting an updated version of the bill presented and eventually adopted in Parliament.

Dawn Black spoke about her particular interest in social programs such as those dealing with domestic violence; taking on the Defence critic position has been challenging and interesting for her. We asked if there were ways we might be able to help her efforts as "Peace Advocate". One suggestion was that we contact members of the parliamentary Defence Committee, especially the chair, Rick Casson, about an incident which occurred in early June. Members of three NGOs, Gerry Barr of the CCIC, Kevin Mccourt of CARE Canada and Steven Staples of the Polaris Institute had their allotted presentation time to the committee cut short by a pro-

**Conscience Canada's website has had a facelift.** Regrettably the new site is estimated to contain several million errors. Why not help us to find them?? Point your browser to [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca) and report all glitches to [wbell@vex.net](mailto:wbell@vex.net), the author of the mistakes.

cedural motion instigated by the Conservative members of the committee. Dawn felt it was important, not only as a matter of respect to the presenters, but also to ensure the proper functioning of the committee, to issue an apology to the NGOs and to invite them back to finish their presentations. We agreed that, for democracy to work, all of us, but especially elected representatives, need to be well informed, and shutting down the voices of knowledgeable people is not helpful at all! If anyone would like more information and contact information for writing to the Defence Committee, please contact Jan Slakov at [js@saltspring.com](mailto:js@saltspring.com).

Bill Bhaneja's presentation on the progress of efforts to establish a Peace Department in Canada and elsewhere in the world was most informative and is summarized in the article beginning on p. 6 of this newsletter. We intend to continue to find ways to support this initiative, especially since what the peace department would do are precisely the kinds of things we would want to direct our military taxes towards, if we had the legislated right to redirect them away from military expenditures.

We are eager to see that Conscience Canada operate in as democratic a manner as possible, so we consulted with those present about how and if Conscience Canada can speak out on issues that are related to, but not explicitly within our mandate. Following a lively discussion, we agreed that, "In order to facilitate dialogue among the membership about CC's support for complementary initiatives, these initiatives are to be

listed in a special column in the newsletter, along with an invitation to members to send in their comments. The board is encouraged, whenever feasible, to inform CC members of its desire to support a given initiative before it actually signs on." That column is entitled "Conscience Canada endorsements", beginning on p. 5.

Bruna Nota presented our board report, highlighting work accomplished in 2005. We would be happy to send this report to anyone who requests it. It is also posted on the CC website at [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca), as part of the full AGM report.

We are ever grateful for the work of our board members, past and present. The assembly passed a motion of thanks to out-going board members Dominique Boisvert, Joshua Goldberg and Marilyn Hébert and confirmed the new board: Bruna Nota (president), Don Woodside (vice-president), Louise Dixon (treasurer), Murray Lumley (Secretary), Huberte Gautreau and Jan Slakov (members at large). A motion to allow the board to appoint up to three new board members was also passed, as we are hoping we will find more wonderful people for our board.

As always, copies of the financial report and the minutes are available to anyone who requests them.

*This article is based on minutes prepared by Jan Slakov and Bruna Nota, both members of the CC board.*

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## **An Option for Those Whose Taxes are Deducted at Source**

If you are an employee your taxes will be deducted at source and you will probably receive a refund each year at tax time from the CRA. This makes it virtually impossible for employees who are COMTs (conscientious objectors to military taxation) to withhold the military portion of their taxes. However, we learned that there is a possible remedy to this situation.

You can apply to have less of your income deducted at source as taxes. The form in question is called the "Request to Reduce Tax Deductions at Source" form # T1213. It is posted on-line at: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t1213/t1213-04b-e.pdf](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t1213/t1213-04b-e.pdf).

It seems to be another bureaucratic hurdle, but it allows for possibly some remedy to a difficult situation and at worst the dispersal of some more information about COMT. We would appreciate knowing if you try this option and your experience with it, so we can learn more about how the CRA will respond to such a request.

## Conscience Canada Endorsements/Statements

From time to time, Conscience Canada is invited to endorse peace-related initiatives that do not fall directly under our mandate. Before we endorse anything, board members discuss the issue. Ideally, we would consult with our entire membership, but this isn't practical. So, following a motion from the 2006 AGM, we are notifying our membership of previous endorsements, and inviting your comments. We hope to be able to share comments in future newsletters, as long as we can fit them in.

- Expanding the mandate of the national war museum, summer, 2004:

UPDATE from 2006: The War Museum is now open. Thankfully, it is, apparently, quite sensitive and does not glorify war. We still hope that its mandate could be changed to ensure that it will never glorify war and that it will show how non-violent peace-building can work to prevent and repair the horrors of war. Here is how we expressed our position:

While we are not keen on the prospect of spending millions of dollars on a "war museum", if a museum is going to be built, we strongly endorse the idea that its mandate must include displays about the major role Canadians have played, and continue to play, in war prevention, disarmament, and the peaceful resolution of violent conflicts.

As conscientious objectors, we hope any museum we build will also pay tribute to the history of objection to war in Canada and how some of our immigrants came here to escape being killed or punished for refusing to kill. Some 7 or 8 years ago the Museum of Civilisations had a touching exhibit on the Doukhobors. Some of that material should find its way to a museum celebrating one of the deepest roots in Canada, the root of non-violence. Another example is the way that, under the influence of Lafontaine and Baldwin, Can-

ada responded in a peaceful manner to the burning of the 1st Parliament in Montreal in 1849.

- Support for a Canadian Dept. of Peace, March, 2005:

See the related article on p. 6.

The world currently spends on military preparedness and war about 12 times the amount it would need to spend to provide basic needs (clean water, adequate food, basic health care and education) for every person on earth. Canadians, through our government and many investment funds, participate in investing in the huge war infrastructure.

Canada could help set a saner example by investing in peace infrastructures. One step along that road would be the establishment of a Minister of Peace and eventually, a Department of Peace.

Conscience Canada and Nos impôts pour la paix are, therefore, actively supportive of the creation of the position of "Minister of Peace" for our federal Cabinet.

**"But war-fighting and peace-support operations are fundamentally incompatible." Peggy Mason, The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, Analyst says current strategy making matters worse, **Globe and Mail** 7 March, 2006**

- Afghan Hearing Petition, April, 2006:

UPDATE from 2006: Since we wrote the statement below, Canada's involvement in Afghanistan has become increasingly problematic so the need for a re-evaluation of Canada's role and substantial changes has become even more urgent.

The Board of Conscience Canada endorses this "Afghan Hearing Petition" and we are inviting you to sign it. We believe it is a necessary step towards promoting peace and human rights in Afghanistan. The debate held in the house on Monday 10 April is good but insufficient to guide Canada in a role of responsible peacemaker.

We are very concerned about the way the Canadian military is currently engaged in Afghanistan, essentially as a participant in a long-standing civil war, a participant which has not taken the necessary measures to end its collusion in torture.

After consulting with Dr. Seddiq Weera, a Canadian citizen from Afghanistan who is working to promote peace and human rights in Afghanistan as an advisor to the Afghan Ministry of Education and as an advisor to Afghanistan's Independent National Commission on strengthening Peace, we believe there are better options for Canadian involvement in Afghanistan. These would include changing the mandate and probably the composition, training and equipment of our troops there from one of combat to one of peace-keeping and peace-building.

Canada could help in facilitating dialogue by helping to provide an impartial and safe context for the work of groups such as the Independent National Commission on Strengthening Peace and the United Nations-supported Truth and Justice initiatives. At the diplomatic level Canada could work to get multi-level peace talks going, so that the flawed Bonn Agreement of 2001 can be replaced with a fairer, more workable peace agreement, and supporting the necessary structures towards a transition to democracy.

The petition is asking Parliament to hold as soon as possible, extensive public hearings to gather information, expert advice and opinion from knowledgeable Canadian and Afghan citizens on how best to direct Canadian involvement in Afghanistan for the creation of a stable, democratic and self-sustaining state. It also asks that the public hearings be followed within a reasonable period of time by a full debate and vote in Parliament on the extent and nature of Canada's commitment to Afghanistan.

Despite some failures, the groundwork has been laid for Canada to play a leadership role in promoting peace through the collaboration of people working in different sectors. If we want to promote peace in Afghanistan and the world, it is of vital importance that we re-orient our current engagement in Afghanistan as soon as possible.

Please visit our website to download a copy of the petition.

## Federal Department of Peace: Update

by Bill Bhaneja

*Bill Bhaneja is currently a Senior Fellow at the Program for Research in Innovation Management at University of Ottawa. A former Canadian Diplomat, he was posted in London, Berlin, and Bonn. He is a co-spokesperson for the Department of Peace Initiative with Dr. Saul Arbess in Victoria. Bill is also member of the Canadian Pugwash Group, Science for Peace, the Civilian Peace Service, and the Center for Global Nonviolence, Hawai'i. The following is based on a presentation Bill Bhaneja gave at the Conscience Canada AGM in Vancouver on June 25, 2006*

The Working Group for a Federal Department of Peace in its present form was established following the merger of Ottawa and Victoria groups in November 2005. The Working Group has now chapters in Victoria, Vancouver and Ottawa, and we are in the process of creating new ones across Canada. Our national campaign has been already endorsed by 13 national organizations that range from Council of Canadians, Canadian Pugwash Group, Conscience Canada to Dalai Lama Foundation of Canada and World Conference on Peace and Religion. Its prominent supporters include distinguished Canadian peace-makers such as Hon. Lloyd Axworthy and Senator Doug Roche.

In our background research to outline the rationale and need for such a Department, we found out that the Federal Government spends annually \$16.3 billion (2004) on its "international security" envelope. This is a considerable amount in terms of taxpayer's contribution for which there is little public debate or accountability in the country. Our research showed that there was a lack of transparency on how and where the funds for international peace and security were allocated and spent.

Difficulty in transparency resulted from the way "peace and security" was defined by the government, and the way it was organized. We found that international security envelope work was spread among seven federal departments - in the Departments of Defense, Foreign Affairs, CIDA, Justice, Immigration and so on. So we looked at each of those Departments, their mandates to find out if "Peace" was their top priority. Department of Defense identifies

its main priority as national security. Foreign Affairs is more involved in crisis management, than peace building in a defined way. CIDA's top priority is poverty alleviation. We found a complete lack of a systemic approach for peace within the federal government.

The Federal Department of Peace we propose is a place that would provide a single coherent framework for policy focus for Peace. It will bring together for the first time the three major components of international peace and security: peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building. Our paper (available at [www.departmentofpeace.ca](http://www.departmentofpeace.ca)) provides a full concept in the form of a model Bill for creation of such a Department headed by a senior Minister who, as a member of Cabinet, would actively pursue a mandate of conflict transformation by peaceful, non-violent means. She or he would serve as a counterpoint to the viewpoint of DND and other departments, ensuring a full debate prior to any commitment of Canadian troops for combat, for example.

It is crucial that we stop trivializing non-violence and refuse the false choice of "nonviolence or force". The true choice is between the force of hatred/violence and the force of love we call "nonviolence". - Len Desroches

We propose five key interrelated offices in this new Department: Office of Peace Education, Office of Human and Economic Rights, Office of Disarmament, Office of Civilian Peace Service, and Domestic Violence issues related to Women, Youth, Aboriginal and First Nation People as well as Interreligious Harmony.

Such a Peace Department should not require a large budget, just 2 percent of the current international security envelope to start with. This could be expanded to 10 percent as there is a proportionate decline in the funding of military defense over a 5 to 10 year period. Instead of militarization, the electorate will get the government to focus upon longer-term institution building for peace. It is similar to the kind of effort we made a generation ago in committing ourselves to becoming a steward for our environment through the creation of Federal Department of the Environment. Some people have found the Peace Department title to be too soft. One might alternately give it a more func-

tional title e.g. Department of Peacebuilding, Human Security or Disarmament etc.

The Department of Peace Initiative is currently now being pursued by peace NGOs in 20 countries. At the Second International Peoples Summit of Department of Peace hosted by my colleague Dr. Saul Ar-bess and his team in Victoria this June, two of the delegates were from the governments of the Philippines and Solomon Islands where an equivalent of Peace Departments are already functioning to mitigate local conflicts and participation in international peace processes. Last July, an international group of NGOs under the GPPAC (Global Program on Prevention of Armed Conflict) in their submission to the UN, mentioned the necessity of Department of Peace and Civilian Peace Service in their agenda.

Opposition to the concept stems often from an unwillingness to challenge the status quo, on the part of political parties, bureaucracies, or even peace NGOs - all those who benefit from p-i-e-c-e-s, that is fragmentation of peace. As citizens, we would like our money to be spent on peace-building rather than seeking solutions through weaponry and killing other human beings. Reality is that it's unrealistic to expect an armed soldier to be a social worker or conflict resolver. It requires another way of thinking and skill sets without which peace in 21st Century is unlikely to come. A Federal Peace Department is our alternative to the status quo.

So we have to ask our politicians to focus on this. If parties fail us, then we have to find MPs with conscience to introduce a Private Members bill (as MP Bill Siksay has done with his tabling of the Conscientious Objection Act). We need more such MPs in these troubled times. At the same time in democracies, politicians do things which their electorate want. Therefore awareness among the public has to be raised on "out of the box" approaches for peace through discussion and media.

Please join us in this movement so that there is a leadership to transform pieces of peace into something actionable.

We thank Conscience Canada for its active support of the Department of Peace initiative. For more on Department of Peace, please visit website: [www.departmentofpeace.ca](http://www.departmentofpeace.ca)

## CC DVD on the way

While our meetings with parliamentarians and the results of our membership survey in 2005 have been very encouraging, they have also strengthened our determination to create more effective educational material to enhance the knowledge and understanding of Conscience Canada's key objectives among Canadians, and to increase their active support for our organization. It is essential that more people express their need to have tax legislation that allows them to follow their conscience. We are convinced that a short DVD about Conscience Canada and conscientious objection would be of great value in increasing awareness among Canadians. The DVD should be ready at the beginning of 2007. Please let us know how you can use it and if you can make it available in your circles. We will again produce the Peace Tax Return in 2006, which will be available through our Spring 2007 newsletter and on the CC website.

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# Enough space left here to bid you Peace!

## Soliciting Volunteer Reviewers Suggested Books

The following books have been brought to our attention as pertinent to our concerns. We would be happy to arrange to lend out copies of these books to anyone who would like to write a review for an upcoming issue of the CC newsletter.

**American Nonviolence: The History of an Idea** by Ira Chernus, 248 pp 1-57075-547-7

**Life, Money & Illusion: Living on Earth As If We Want to Stay** by Mike Nickerson, Seven Generations Publishing, 448 pp 0-9780973-0-0 quote: The "War on Terror" ... is an ultimate make-work program that provides huge growth opportunities in the manufacture of massively destructive weapons and then doubles those opportunities through contracts to reconstruct the things those weapons destroy.

**Waging Nonviolent Struggle: 20th Century Practice and 21st Century Potential** by Gene Sharp, Extending Horizons Books, 598 pp 0-87558-162-5 quote: There is nothing in nonviolent action to prevent it from being used for both "good" and "bad" causes. However, the social consequences of its use for a "bad" cause differ considerably from the consequences of violence used for the same "bad" cause.

"Someone once said to Clive: do you think we will ever be forgiven for what we've done? They meant their generation and the war and what the war had done to civilization. Clive said something I've never forgotten. He said: I doubt we'll ever be forgiven. All I hope is -- - they'll remember we were human beings." - Timothy Findley, *The Wars*, as quoted by Frédérick Giasson [<http://fgiasson.com/blog/index.php?cat=48>]

## THANK YOU

We are very grateful to our staunch supporters who allow us to operate - still on a volunteer basis - without too much strain. This year we are particularly blessed. We are working with a wonderful professional who is donating her time and we have received financial assistance from the Canadian Friends Services Committee (Quakers), from the Franz Blumenfeld Peace Fund towards the creation of the DVD (see box above) to publicize our mission and work. We have also received a generous gift from an anonymous donor which will help enormously with our special projects, such as distribution of the DVD or sending a board member to the International Conscience and Peace Tax meeting in Berlin this fall.



## Dialogue - An Important Part of Nonviolence

*"It is fear and silence and the spiritual isolation they cause that must be fought today. And it is dialogue and the universal intercommunication of men that must be defended." - Albert Camus*

Many members of Conscience Canada have, at least to some degree, embraced the power of non-violence as the one they wish to invest in, at the same time that we reject violence.

Albert Camus, in his famous essay, "Neither Victims nor Executioners", wrote about the importance of dialogue as an antidote to violence. The power of non-violence is based, I believe, on the premise that each human has love in their heart somewhere, that we may not be capable of reaching that goodness at a given moment, but that our task is to try to reach out to it. Fundamental to any reaching out is our ability to communicate, our skills at what Camus called "le dialogue".

With this in mind, it's exciting to report on two instances of dialogue I know of here in Canada. Michaël Lessard: <miclesgeo@yahoo.com> of the Réseau du forum social de Québec Chaudière-Appalaches wrote about a civilian-military dialogue which has been happening in Quebec, starting in 2005. It is important to note that participants spoke in their own names, and were not speaking as representatives of any organization.

Out of that dialogue came some points of consensus which are important for Canadians to take into account, in trying to do our best to promote peace and security in Afghanistan:

"It seems clear that a majority of soldiers in Quebec are convinced that peace in Afghanistan is impossible under Operation Enduring Freedom, or even under NATO which would still be controlled by the Bush doctrine. Both civilian and military participants felt that the main underlying reason for the current military intervention in Afghanistan is to build the oil pipeline.

Hence, in order to help bring peace, we must have an independent mission with clear objectives for peace. We must make it very clear that our presence is not at

all under US nor NATO political control. This implies a radical change in the mission status, image, structure and goals."

Another example of dialogue between "security forces" and citizens happened in the wake of the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. Many protesters and observers were shocked by the police brutality they witnessed. It seemed clear that some kind of dialogue would surely have helped. In the Halifax area, peace activists met with members of the RCMP and local police, working to get beyond the stereotypes one group might have had of the other. Late in 2004 came the surprise announcement that US President Bush would be visiting Halifax. Quickly, the Halifax Peace Coalition and others organized themselves to make sure the protests would be visible and peaceful.

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

Instead of the police barricading themselves behind tons of riot gear, this time they had pamphlets to hand out. The pamphlets explained to protesters what their rights and responsibilities were and what the role of the police was but

probably the most important thing was simply the "intercommunication" created by having the police reaching out to protesters.

As Dave Hubert explained in his book, Canada @ Peace: Coactive Security, there is a tension between the civilian and military approaches to policing. The military approach leads to suffering, not only of those who endure police brutality, but also of police, who can end up committing acts of violence, mostly because of the militarized culture they find themselves a part of. As citizens, there is plenty we can do to help in the de-militarization of our police forces. One step is certainly "dialogue", but also lobbying for community-based policing. Toronto's decision to emphasize community engaged policing is proving positive. Dave Hubert's book gives us some excellent background information to back up our arguments. (You can order copies from Dave by contacting him at (780) 462-6234 or <dehubert@telus.net>.)

*Jan Slakov is a long-time CC member, currently also a CC board member, living on Salt Spring Island, BC.*

## Membership Application or Renewal

Friends,

This is a truly exciting time for us. Conscience Canada is experiencing a time of great possibilities. We have had positive endorsements from Members of Parliament from the four parties presently in the House. Faith groups and War Resisters have reaffirmed in many ways the need to have our right not to kill and not to pay for others to kill respected.

We have a small but energetic group of volunteers doing an enormous amount of work. We have had strong support expressed in our formal and informal surveys. Encouragement has also taken the form of financial donations allowing us to develop new information material. There is a lot of work to do and we count on your help, your new or renewed membership, your increasing awareness of Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation in your circles so that more and more Canadians express to our elected representatives our expectation that legislation be enacted promptly.

Please work with us towards our ultimate goal: a world free of war.

Former US President John F. Kennedy said: "War will exist until that distant day when the CO enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today". Let us work together to hasten that (maybe not so) distant day.

**SEND IN YOUR NEW OR RENEWED MEMBERSHIP TODAY**

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

There are two ways to join:

§ Member: Open to any person committed to furthering 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 CC.

Annual membership: (\$10.00/yr):           \$

Donations to Conscience Canada:           \$

Peace Tax Trust Deposit (full or symbolic): \$

Total funds enclosed   \$

(cheque payable to Conscience Canada)

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

Address Correction Requested - Please let us know if you desire more or fewer copies of the newsletter