

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 26, 2004

A meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held on Monday, January 26, 2004, at 4:30 p.m., in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-Ground, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:**

Councillor David Cadman, Co-Chair  
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vice-Chair  
Thomas Anthony  
David Askew  
Ivan Bulic  
Amanda Camley  
Gail Davidson, Co-Chair  
Kyla Kinzel  
Cara Ng  
Beverley O'Neil  
John Price  
Peter Prontzos  
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair  
Al Wong

**ABSENT:**

Trustee Jane Bouey, Vancouver School Board  
Sam Phillipoff  
Christy Mori  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps, Vancouver Park Board  
Judith Radovan

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:**

Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 24, 2003, were approved as circulated.

#### 1. Public Participation Invitee: Mr. Pat Clarke

In response to an invitation from the Committee, Mr. Pat Clarke, BCTF, provided details of current peace education practices in our schools, and highlighted the challenges involved, thoughts on where we are now and where we can go from here. Mr. Clarke also distributed a copy of a document he authored entitled "A Culture of Peace", (on file) which is a teaching resource on alternatives to war and violent conflict.

During discussion, the following points were noted:

- focus of many teachers is more toward conflict resolution than global concerns;
- peace education is not a mandatory teaching topic in our schools, but rather, determined by the interests of a particular teacher;
- the way curriculum is focussed makes it difficult for teachers to bring attention to marginal topics;
- difficult to introduce materials which appear to be agenda driven and not objective in their approach;
- some of the newer teachers find ways to include such material in their teaching;
- British Columbia Teachers' Federation continue to provide resources to support this type of work;

- the decision is now made at School Board level regarding required list of teaching texts;
- the UK has done interesting work around opening up curriculum, lots of brilliant material, but very little can be used because of testing regime;
- "A Culture of Peace" document has received good distribution, especially following September 11<sup>th</sup> and the Iraq War; and
- interest is generally determined by what is occurring at the time.

After further discussion, the Committee members suggested the following could be pursued to support peace education in our schools:

- the Committee could work with the Peace and Global Educators Association;
- critical enquiry could be used by teachers as method to discuss alternatives to war and violence; and
- relevant books could be acquired by librarians -- teachers will organize their projects according to what is available in the school's library.

The Committee thanked Mr. Clarke for his presentation.

## 2. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

### a) Citizen Peace Award Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee members agreed to provide a report back on recommendations for terms of reference for the 2004 Peace Award at the March meeting.

### b) Peace and Justice Web Site Sub-Committee

Peter Prontzos advised a new volunteer has agreed to work on the Committee's WebPage, which is near start-up, pending a few technical details. Noha Sedky advised she is working with Peter on planning the site's structure, and concurrence from members will be sought prior to final posting of the site. Members noted the difficulty they have experienced in locating the City's Peace and Justice WebPage with various search techniques.

### c) Public Participation Sub-Committee

Before the Committee for consideration was a draft "Letter of Introduction" prepared by the Sub-Committee. David Askew advised the letter would serve as an introduction of Committee members to other organizations. The Committee agreed to approve the letter as circulated, with a reformatted signature block. The Clerk was requested to distribute an electronic copy of the letter for use by all members.

Mr. Askew further advised the Sub-Committee had met in early December and continues to work on implementation of the Committee's terms of reference as they relate to public participation, with the following ideas noted:

- sponsor film in Amnesty International film festival; and
- sponsor workshop "what it means to be a city of peace and justice".

It was agreed the Sub-Committee would report back on type of films to be considered for the festival and related financial considerations.

**d) World Peace Forum Sub-Committee**

Before the Committee for consideration was a draft document from the Sub-Committee entitled "A Vancouver Citizens' Initiative: Organizing a World Peace Forum". Included in the document were:

- goals the Forum would hope to achieve;
- a suggested action plan to achieve those goals; and
- potential funding sources for establishment of a Vancouver Peace Fund.

John Price reviewed the document, and also provided information arising from actions agreed to by the Committee at its November meeting as follows:

- responses have been sent to groups who have expressed an interest in the World Peace Forum 2005 proposal;
- Mayor Campbell has written to Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, inviting him to visit Vancouver to consult on issues related to the pursuit of world peace;
- the Sub-Committee met with local NGO peace activists in early January to further develop the peace forum proposal; and
- Councillor Woodsworth has just returned from the World Social Forum in Mumbai, India.

Comments provided by the Committee, during discussion of the Sub-Committee's draft document, included the following:

- we have responsibility to be anti-war and pro-peace, more than mild words are required;
- the issue of justice is not adequately addressed -- injustice should be dealt with first and foremost -- then peace;
- the Peace Forum should be disassociated from the Olympics; or the Olympics refocused back to the Greek social movement and respect the Athenian tradition of having peace during the games;
- create a culture of peace and justice to be reflected in the Olympics;
- the words "anti-war movement" should read "peace movement";
- outline of plan and general approach supported;
- the question of aboriginal peoples needs to be incorporated;
- the question of process needs to be resolved, issues of principle clarified, the draft adopted, then move forward;
- due to the size of the project, the World Peace Forum would benefit from a separate Website, linked with the City's Peace and Justice WebPage;
- the word 'justice' needs to appear with the word 'peace' throughout the document;
- important to keep focus on event as World Peace Forum - this is the primary orientation, although justice issues will be included;
- a proposed fall workshop to organize Canadian Cities for Peace could be scheduled around World Peace Day on September 25<sup>th</sup>; and
- booth could be set up at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in May.

After lengthy discussion, the Chair suggested the Sub-Committee maintain a reporting relationship with the Committee, and email be used to move ahead with the project. Note was also made on the need to move this report forward to City Council.

After due consideration, the Committee unanimously agreed:

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee adopt the draft Plan of the World Peace Forum Sub-Committee, taking into account the points raised this day, including:

- the issue of aboriginal justice statement;
- some other words to reflect the ideal of Olympic Games rather than Olympic Games of 2010 - this is not an Olympic Project; and
- put added emphasis on justice as well as peace.

AND FURTHER THAT the Sub-Committee work with the NGOs across Canada and community representatives to develop an implementation plan for the forum, including a draft budget.

**e) Other Cities and Councils Liaison Sub-Committee**

The Committee had before it for consideration the January 19, 2004, minutes of the Sub-Committee, and a draft letter (with appendices) prepared for distribution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities regarding an invitation to join a network of Peace Cities. An additional letter was also referenced that will be sent to those municipalities that have already expressed an interest in peace initiatives, and it was suggested reference to upcoming fall events be included in this letter.

Gail Davidson and Noha Sedsky reviewed the Sub-Committee's minutes and discussion followed on how best the Committee can disseminate materials to maximize their efficacy. The Clerk noted the City Clerk's Office now has an address database for UBCM members, however no such database exists for FCM members. David Cadman advised he would follow up regarding distribution of material to FCM members.

**f) Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee**

Gail Davidson proposed the City host a series of lectures in April, May and June as part of the Vancouver Public Library series -- either in a panel or lecture format. Lecture to be on weaponization of space, with Senator Roche and Lloyd Axworthy invited as participants.

A member advised on the need to book the event soon, and also noted if the event is a civic function sponsored or endorsed by Council or a Councillor, or if an author will be present, the VPL does not charge for the room. It was also suggested two events may be adequate, with Messrs. Roche and Axworthy attending one event and the other date used for debate.

Ms. Davidson advised of her intent to post on the Lawyers Against the War website: the names of those MPs who have voted against Star Wars; the City of Vancouver motion to Seek Peaceful Resolution to Iraq Situation; and a sample letter to encourage people to write to Members of Parliament.

**3. Steve Kisby - Hunger Strike Against FRAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas)**

As this event has now passed, the Committee took no further action.

**4. Correspondence**

The Committee took action as noted on the received correspondence:

- a. **Letter dated December 10, 2003, from Pivot Legal Society Re: Concerns Regarding the Vancouver Police Department**

Committee members discussed at length how best to address the issues raised by Pivot Legal Society, and noted the need for the Committee to address the justice portion, as well as the peace portion, of its mandate. Accordingly, the need for a Justice Sub-Committee was agreed to.

After due consideration, the Committee unanimously agreed:

THAT the Peace and Justice Committee strike a sub-committee, comprised of Tom Anthony, Ivan Bulic, Gail Davidson, Kyla Kinzel and Ellen Woodsworth, to examine, as required, concerns raised by John Richardson, Executive Director, Pivot Legal Society; and

FURTHER THAT the Justice Sub-Committee report back to the Peace and Justice Committee.

- b. **Letter dated January 19, 2004, from Anne Ying Der Re: Dalai Lama's Visit to Vancouver in April 2004**

Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth agreed to follow up on this event, and report back to the Committee.

**5. New Business**

- a. **Reductions and Cutoffs of Income Assistance Benefits**

Tom Anthony circulated, for the Committee's information and direction, a proposed motion to be forwarded to City Council regarding Welfare Cuts. Mr. Anthony noted this was a reiteration and expansion of a motion passed by Council at its meeting on November 6, 2003.

Councillor Woodsworth agreed to follow up on this matter.

**b. "Ideas" Show on CBC Radio**

Peter Prontzos distributed, for the Committee's information, a copy of his proposal entitled "The Spectre of Democracy: Politics in the Twenty-First Century" which he has submitted to the "Ideas" Show on CBC Radio.

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Monday, March 29, 2004  
TIME: 4:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room  
Sub-Ground, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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