

NOTICE OF MEETING
PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
A G E N D A

DATE: Monday, March 29, 2004
TIME: 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
(sandwiches will be provided)
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room
Sub-Ground, City Hall

Note to Members: Please advise Denise Salmon at 604.873.7269 or email denise_salmon@city.vancouver.bc.ca if you are unable to attend this meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2004, to be approved.

1. Public Participation Invitee

Mr. Alfred Webre, J.D., M.Ed.-Institute for Cooperation in Space (ICIS) will update the Committee on activities opposing MD and supporting the Space Treaty and touch on what the Committee could usefully do.

Gail Davidson, Co-Chair, will introduce Mr. Webre.

2. Sub-Committee Updates/Reports

a. Citizen Peace Award Sub-Committee

The attached draft material from the Citizen Peace Award Sub-Committee refers.

b. Peace and Justice WebSite Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee will provide an update. www.peaceandjustice.ca will be on line soon.

c. Public Participation Sub-Committee

The attached notes from February 9, 2004, meeting of the Public Participation Sub-Committee refer. The Sub-Committee will present the following points for discussion:

- VPJC banner
- recommendation for VPJC budget request
- Committees' liaison with Park Board and School Board

d. World Peace Forum Sub-Committee

Attached, for the Committee's information, is a copy of the document dated March 1, 2004, entitled "Vancouver A City for Peace and Justice: Towards a World Peace Forum in 2006". The Sub-Committee will provide an update.

Please note the current email address: cityforpeace@peaceandjustice.ca

e. Other Cities and Councils Liaison Sub-Committee

The attached letter dated March 18, 2004, and supporting documents, regarding the Peace Cities Network has now been distributed to interested parties. The Sub-Committee will provide an update.

f. Justice Sub-Committee

The Committee, as its meeting on January 26, 2004, agreed to strike a sub-committee to examine, as required, concerns raised in a letter from Pivot Legal Society.

Accordingly, the attached draft letter dated March 1, 2004, from the Sub-Committee is before the Committee for review.

g. Star Wars Agenda Sub-Committee

3. Peace and Justice Committee - Meeting Times

Councillor Woodsworth requested this item be placed on the agenda, as the current meeting dates set for the committee conflict with scheduled meetings for the both the Park Board and School Board representatives.

4. Updates/Upcoming Events

a) Canadian Coalition to Oppose Missile Defence (CCOMD)

Peter Prontzos will provide an update.

5. New Business

Next Meeting:

DATE: Monday, May 31, 2004
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Strathcona Meeting Room
Sub-Ground, City Hall

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NOTE FROM CLERK: To better serve the Committee, in future, I will provide additional copies of the agenda package on the food table adjacent the sandwiches. Please help yourself.

Citizens' Peace Award

Purpose: [suggested additions and deletions by Al Wong, Feb 27/03]
To recognize a Vancouver citizen, group of citizens, or organization for their outstanding contribution to **justice and (~~delete world~~)** peace. It is intended that the award be given to coincide with the **annual (~~delete UN sponsored~~)** International Day of Peace, which is the third Tuesday of September.

Criteria:

1. The Award shall be open to any person, persons, organization or organizations with verified residency (or for organizations, headquarters) in the city of Vancouver.
2. The City of Vancouver shall solicit nominations from the citizens of Vancouver by advertisement in the first week of May, in local newspapers. The closing date shall be 30 days after the published solicitation.
3. The nomination must have the written support of at least three residents of Vancouver.
4. The nomination documentation shall include only a letter of transmittal plus an absolute maximum of 3 pages of supporting text, pictures or charts. The minimum text font allowed is 12 points with minimum 1/2-in border on all sides of an 8-1/2 in x 11-in sheet.
5. All qualified nominations shall be reviewed by members of the appropriate sub-committee of the Vancouver Peace and Justice Committee. The sub-committee shall submit a summary of all nominations received and 3 short-list recommendations for the consideration of the Peace and Justice Committee, at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled July meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee.
6. The Peace and Justice Committee shall select one finalist from either the 3 short-list recommendations or the general list of all nominations received, for subsequent ratification by the City Council at the earliest possible date.
7. The Award shall be made by the City of Vancouver on or about the third Tuesday of September at the appropriate Council meeting. Presentation to be made at Council and followed by a reception to which local peace and justice activists and organizations are to be invited.

Agenda:

1. Citizens' for Peace Award
 2. Film Festival – Sponsorship of Peace and Justice Films
 3. VPJC Banner
 4. Liaison with School Board, Parks Board and NGO's
 5. City Banners
-
1. The committee reviewed a draft of the Terms of Reference for the Citizens' Peace Award which had been prepared by Al Wong. The committee redrafted the document for review by the sub-committee set up to prepare the terms of reference for the award.
 2. Amanda reported on her discussions with festival boards regarding how we could highlight films that promote peace and justice or how we could cooperate in the sponsorship of a peace and justice film festival, by for example providing the venue. Amanda will continue her discussions with the objective of developing a viable proposal for the VPJC to consider.
 3. The committee reviewed Al Wong's suggestion to purchase a Peace and Justice banner for the March 20 Walk for Peace funded through donations by members of the committee. The committee suggested that the wording should include the following text: City of Vancouver, Peace and Justice Committee, with a slogan "working to establish Vancouver as a city of peace and justice" or some other simple slogan, as well as the city's logo. Amanda will contact Al to find out what feedback he received from the committee and offer help with the design and logistics should the committee decide to pursue the project.
 4. Sam will work at increasing public participation in peace and justice activities by liaising with the School Board and Parks Board.
 5. The Public Participation Sub-committee recommends that the VPJC request a budget of \$25,000 from the City to cover the cost of a banner, event sponsorship and receptions, and costs associated with liaising with other cities and regional districts.

- 6. We need a distribution list of NGO's, city gov't and individuals and a city staff person to host and update.**
- 7. We recommend exploring the process for the approval of city banners and through this process to try to have these banners reflect a peace and justice theme.**
- 8. The next meeting of the committee will be April 13, 7pm at 1056 Nicola(at Comox),.**



**CITY OF VANCOUVER
PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/committees/peacejustice/>
E-mail: cityforpeace@peaceandjustice.ca

**Supports Item No. 2d
P&J Committee Agenda
March 29, 2004**

MEMBERS (Appointed by Council
July 22, 2003)

Councillor David Cadman,
Co-Chair
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth,
Vice-Chair

Trustee Jane Bouey,
Vancouver School Board
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps,
Vancouver Park Board

Thomas Anthony
David Askew
Ivan Bulic
Amanda Camley
Gail Davidson, Co-Chair
Sam Phillipoff
Kyla Kinzel
Christy Mori
Cara Ng
Beverley O'Neil
John Price
Peter Prontzos
Judith Radovan
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair
Al Wong

Vancouver
A City for Peace and Justice:
Towards a World Peace Forum in
2006

A Proposal from the
Vancouver City
Peace and Justice Committee

March 1, 2004

March 1, 2004

Dear Friends:

For the past six months, Vancouver City's Peace and Justice Committee has been investigating whether the City, in partnership with local, pan-Canadian and international NGOs, should host a world peace forum. This report contains the detailed findings of that investigation, which we recommend you read in full.

In summary, this report recommends that there be a world peace forum as well as provides an idea of the first steps we might take to assure that adequate consultations and preparations are undertaken locally, regionally, across Canada, and in the world's various regions (particularly in the South) to support such a project.

We had originally thought that a world peace forum should be held in 2005. However, that year is already charged with activities that we believe deserve support in their own right. We have therefore concluded that it would probably be best to organize the forum in May or June, 2006.

Why a world peace forum? A world-wide peace movement re-emerged in opposition to the invasion of Iraq. The movement is diverse, encompassing the more senior anti-nuclear movement on the one hand, the newer anti-war movement on the other, and a host of others. Needless to say there are regional dimensions, both in terms of peace movements, and in terms of threats to peace. Today, the Middle East is the focus, tomorrow it may be East Asia. A world peace forum and, just as importantly the process leading up to that forum, will help build the capacity necessary for communication, coordination and action on a global scale to stop war and end global militarism

A project such as a world peace forum would require a lot of work. It is important that such a project not divert resources necessary for ongoing justice struggles in Vancouver. At the same time, any future financial commitment on the City's part would have to take into account its already strained budget, as well as the degree to which City residents want to support such a project. Regardless, a major fundraising campaign will be an essential ingredient in this endeavour.

We hope this document will serve to expand the consultation process and that both the City's Peace and Justice Committee and the NGO community, will take whatever measures may be necessary to build the consensus necessary for this project to become a reality. I would like to thank the many community partners who helped in the preparation of this report. The Peace and Justice Committee is alone responsible for the report's contents and any errors therein.

Ellen Woodsworth, City Councillor
on behalf of the
Peace and Justice Committee
E-mail: cityforpeace@peaceandjustice.ca

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**Vancouver,
A City for Peace and Justice:
Towards a World Peace Forum in 2006**

The Vancouver City Peace and Justice Committee approved this discussion paper on January 26, 2004. It is the result of an ongoing dialogue between the Peace and Justice Committee and Vancouver community partners, as well as with anti-war activists outside of Vancouver. We believe it has broad based support but it is only a beginning. The proposal should be reassessed and supplemented once the city, the school board, the parks board and community partners have examined and discussed it in full.

There is hope. We have witnessed and participated in the rise of a revitalized, global anti-war movement, imbued with the energy of a younger generation. New anti-war organizations have taken root in many parts of the world, including in the United States, to protest against global militarism. As part of this movement, Vancouver City Council re established its peace and justice committee to assure that peace action would become part of the city's agenda. In so doing, Vancouver has rejoined hundreds of other cities around the world that are organized in networks--Mayors for Peace, Peace Messenger Cities, Cities for Peace--in the quest to build healthy communities in a world without war.

But much remains to be done. War, militarism and the spectre of nuclear holocaust do menace our planet, our lives, our communities. Images of dismembered bodies, razor wire, and tanks in the streets are a pale reflection of the bloody reality that has resulted from the invasion of Iraq. To the global challenges of world poverty, the AIDS crisis, and environmental decay, the world now faces an additional threat--a superpower intent on making military might the standard for right and wrong, regardless of world opinion and international law. Developing "useable" nuclear weapons and the militarization of space are part of this new U.S.-led agenda. Communities ignore these threats at their peril. We must act.

War and militarism threaten us locally as well as globally because they:

- destroy local communities and undermine citizens' security--civilians now constitute 90 percent of casualties in war;
- create a destructive social atmosphere in which violence becomes an accepted norm to resolve social conflict;
- channel tax dollars into military and security budgets instead of into necessary city social services and infrastructure support;
- promote racism and erode residents' civil liberties as in the case of Maher Arar, an Ottawa resident and Canadian citizen arrested by US authorities and forcibly transported to another country for torture.

One challenge ahead is to ensure that local governments and anti-war, citizens' groups work constructively together to build the global network necessary to achieve peace and justice. In

2005, the anti-nuclear movement is mobilizing for the United Nations nuclear review in May 2005 and for the commemorative assemblies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2005, the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings and the end of World War II. The anti-war movement continues to build, co-ordinating anti-occupation rallies on the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, proposing international protests against military bases, organizing popular tribunals against war crimes, and emphasizing the role of women against war. The city of Athens is integrating peace actions as part of its 2004 Olympics and in 2006, the World Urban Forum (formerly known as Habitat) will be held in Vancouver.

Empowering a global peace network requires recognition of the diversity within the movement and this, in turn, invites sustained efforts at coordination. Bringing together local governments and citizens groups is essential if we are to mobilize the resources necessary to achieve the global communications capacity to achieve peace and justice. Given Vancouver's 1980s activism on peace issues, its diversity, its resources and its global reach, the City is well placed to facilitate the organization of a World Peace Forum in 2006.

Vancouver residents expect their local government to provide a secure and sustainable city environment. A City initiative to develop a culture of peace and justice will, we believe, give voice to the deep reservoir of peace sentiment that exists among individuals and community organizations. By involving Vancouver citizens and the world community, we can assure that taking such an initiative will not mean diverting resources from other important city tasks. These include providing essential social services and infrastructure, and achieving the goals of achieving justice and dignity for First Nations' peoples, overcoming violence against women, eliminating poverty and homelessness, and ending racism and violence in our communities. On the contrary, a peace initiative must empower residents and community groups in the city.

Vancouver is blessed with many natural attractions and is world-renowned as a travel destination. It will host the world junior hockey championships in 2005 and it will host the Olympics in 2010. But Vancouver is more than a sporting venue. It has a rich tradition of peace activism and its administration is based on a strong vision of social responsibility. Given the challenges that the world faces today, we believe that the City, in partnership with the community, should commit to organizing a World Peace Forum in the year 2006. From Vancouver's perspective the goals of such a venture might include:

1. Building a world culture of peace and justice culminating in a World Peace Forum
2. Reinforcing the cities for peace networks in Canada and around the world with Vancouver as an Asia-Pacific hub in this network;
3. Empowering citizens by creating a framework for partnerships between local governments, NGOs and residents;
4. Ensuring city residents, and particularly young people, have access to peace information, education and opportunities to fully participate in peace activities;
5. Assuring that the diverse threats to peace in the various regions of the world are adequately understood and addressed by the network of cities and citizens' organizations.
6. Learning the lessons from the past, integrate the voices of our elders, and encourage

participation by those who continue to suffer from crimes against humanity, especially the First Nations' peoples, on the basis of redress and reconciliation.

However, before fully committing to such a major venture, we recommend that the City undertake, as a first step, a "City for Peace Initiative" that would, on the basis of this document, allow City departments and related agencies to discuss this proposal and to report back on its feasibility. Concurrently, the City might conduct outreach to other cities interested in peace issues to determine if there is the support necessary for such a project. Finally, the City should continue to liaise with the NGO community and encourage them to organize autonomously so that they can build the capacity to make this dream a reality.

A. Some Ideas for Implementation

We believe concrete measures are necessary to create a framework that would allow for education and reflection related to this project and at the same time allow for maximum citizen consultation, participation and initiative. Below are some ideas:

1. Issue Vancouver Peace Appeal:

The City should consider issuing an appeal or proclamation outlining its "City for Peace Initiative" including the proposal for a world peace forum. This might be done just prior to, or on March 20, 2004, the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq or another appropriate time. This appeal would call for cities and citizens' groups to come together in a World Peace Forum and outline the key elements of the Vancouver initiative. This would provide a basis for further action and would also be an effective educational tool, particularly if translated into multiple languages. It would be posted on the City web site and consideration should be given to mailing it to all city households as was done in 1984 and 1986 for peace initiatives undertaken by previous administrations. The appeal should also encourage citizen participation through innovative voicing of views via web sites, allow for volunteering and local initiatives, as well as appeal for donations to a Peace Fund (see below re finances). The school board and parks board might consider ways to have this appeal made available in city schools and community centres. It should be circulated internationally.

2. Creation of Worldpeaceforum Web Site:

We recommend the creation of a worldpeaceforum web page (or site) that will provide a) information on the world peace forum initiative; b) access to peace education materials and c) up to date news about the world peace movement (Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, and so forth). This web site would mainly be informational, not editorial, and would initially operate in English but should establish a multi-lingual capacity as early as possible. It is important to establish a site that is as inter-active as possible, allowing people to post information and opinions re this initiative, recruit volunteers to work on the project and allow people to

donate to the Peace Fund (see below). Until this web site is up and running we recommend that as much information as possible regarding this initiative be posted on the City's Peace and Justice Committee web site and others as appropriate.

3. Organize a "Cities for Peace" Forum in the fall, 2004

A world peace forum is by definition an international activity. A pre-condition for holding such a forum in Vancouver would be that cities and NGOs across Canada be willing to participate in and actively support such a project. A "Cities for Peace" forum would provide a venue and opportunity for multi-level, multi-city networking. Vancouver City would organize the sessions for mayors and city councillors, and partner organizations in the area might initiate workshops for peace groups, peace educators, labour council peace activists, for First Nations, for women, youth and so forth. The forum might also allow for city schools to discuss peace education. This forum would be self-financing in that delegates would have to provide their own travel funds. If funding permits, the City with NGO partners would facilitate venue and also coordinate organization. A small number of international guests might be invited depending on finances and international observers should be welcomed. We would also welcome the organisation of international regional meetings on a similar basis.

4. Next Steps

Once the "Cities for Peace" forum has concluded, those involved in the world peace forum initiative (including the city, school board, parks board, and community partners) should assess the outcome and, with assistance of international partners, draw up a concrete plan to guide the project over the next 18 months.

5. Campaign 2005: International Outreach

Building on earlier initiatives, the City should consider developing a vigorous international program. While the world situation may require adjustments, Vancouver activities might include a focus on three specific projects:

- a. The United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty Review in April-May 2005
Taking direction from existing initiatives; organize activities in Vancouver to reinforce demands for a nuclear free world.
- b. "Never Again" Exhibit: "Survivors: Cities and People (June, 2005)"
Organize an exhibit with displays of cities previously devastated by war (i.e., Hiroshima/Nanjing/Baghdad/Warsaw) that would demonstrate both how cities are affected by war and why they must act to prevent war. Such an exhibit would provide a secure and supportive venue for survivor stories. The audience for such an exhibit would include schools, residents of greater Vancouver, and visitors to the city.
- c. Hiroshima/Nagasaki Bombing 60th Anniversary Commemoration (August 2005)
The City should consider organizing commemorative activities, for example, a web-cast

of ceremonies (8:15 a.m., August 6 is 4 p.m. August 5 in Vancouver) in community centres throughout the city.

6. World Peace Forum 2006 (May or June)

Around the time of the World Urban Forum, organize the World Peace Forum. This forum would be a major undertaking, be broad in scope providing an umbrella under which movements and organizations working on peace issues, including city representatives, indigenous peoples, women, youth and seniors could come together, network and demonstrate to the world the thirst for peace and justice. It would allow for a major arts and cultural component, and maximize citizen involvement from the start. It would be an international event guided in its key decisions through an ongoing dialogue among the key stakeholders, locally, pan-Canadian and internationally. A dialogue with partners regarding the specific goals for the Forum and the process necessary to make it happen should begin as soon as possible.

Organization

To oversee the work related to this project, we suggest that the City establish through the Peace and Justice Committee, a "City for Peace" working group that includes representatives of the City, the Peace and Justice Committee, the School Board, and the Parks Board to examine how to activate this initiative. At the same time, we recommend that the City work with community partners so that they can establish a stable and ongoing consultative network, as well as an autonomous organizational capacity that would be capable of moving forward the substantial work necessary to make the dream of a world peace forum a reality. As early as possible both the City for Peace working group and the NGOs should integrate international consultations into their activities.

Funding

The costs of hosting a world peace forum would be substantial. There are also important economic benefits for the city including revenues from the increase in visitors to the city at the time of the forum, and the benefits from becoming known globally as a city for peace and justice. We believe that an active fundraising program will cover the major portion of the costs of the forum and thus minimize costs to the City. This project must not detract from service provision in the city nor undermine the various social programs that the City provides. In order to facilitate fundraising, we recommend the establishment of a peace fund that would receive contributions, and fund the world peace forum with a substantial amount of monies devoted to subsidizing travel costs for southern delegates.

A world of peace and justice is possible!

Towards a World Peace Forum...8

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A Canadian Conference on
**PREVENTING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY: LESSONS FROM THE ASIA
PACIFIC WAR (1931-1945)**

Friday, March 21-Saturday, March 22, 2003

First Nations House of Learning, University of British Columbia

Closing Statement

Integrating the movement for historical redress and reconciliation with the anti-war movement in Canada and abroad

The voices of past and present have resonated at this conference. We have learned that how we address past injustices, including crimes against humanity, speaks volumes about the challenges the world faces today.

We offer our deep appreciation to the survivors of crimes against humanity present at this conference including Grandmother Hwang Geum Joo, a Korean survivor of Japanese military sexual slavery; Xu Jiaxie and Yang Dafang, survivors of Japanese germ warfare; Kinuko Laskey, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb; Mary Kitagawa, a survivor of Japanese Canadian internment; Suh Sung, a victim of torture and 19 years' imprisonment and now a leading activist for peace and human rights in Asia; and Don MacPherson, a Canadian Hong Kong veteran, as well as other former prisoners of war and residential school survivors. (Thank you so much)

We, who gathered here on the 40th anniversary of the U.N. Declaration for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, affirm the following:

War and racism are a lethal mixture, one reinforcing the other, leading to peripheralization, demonization, or dehumanization, which create the basis for crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. The recent practices of racial profiling and the passage of the Canadian "Anti terrorism" Act constitute a wake up call for Canadians - we must halt the erosion of civil liberties generated through the politics of fear in the wake of September 11th.

The past and the present are intimately connected. The United States government, for example, could have largely stopped international biological weapons development in the 1940s when it learned about the atrocities committed by the Japanese imperial army as a result of wide scale deployment of biological weapons in China during the Asia Pacific War (1931 1945). Instead, the U.S. government offered immunity to the Japanese perpetrators of these atrocities in exchange for their scientific data, soaked in the blood of victims. Similarly, the system of sexual slavery imposed by the Japanese military should have been held up as a war crime, thereby acting as a disincentive to the practice of rape, whether in peace or war. That it was not held up as a war crime reflects the sexist bias of the male judges and soldiers at the time.

Genocide is a part of crimes against humanity and we acknowledge that Aboriginal people in Canada have been victims of genocide as defined by the U.N. Genocide Convention, including Article II (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group and II (e) forcibly transferring children of one group to another group. We must stop all aspects of genocide. Support for the Innu, First Nations, and Metis in their quest for justice represents a central task for the people of Canada.

Liberal democracy is no guarantee against crimes against humanity. Both in the past and present, we see that racism, sexism, and classism can undermine our causes. Legal instruments and international bodies including the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and others, can offer important venues to promote our causes but they require careful preparation so that issues such as sexual slavery are not submerged by other important but distinct crimes such as forced labour.

This conference has some immediate results. We welcome an initiative arising at the conference to develop an international network to investigate and support the movement to lift the veil of secrecy that has too long covered the use of biological weapons in China during the Asia Pacific War. We warmly support the call for the City of Vancouver to organize a world peace forum in the year 2005 and urge that the organizers of such a conference include a strong historical component so that we can continue to hear the voices of survivors of crimes against humanity. The efforts of the Chinese and Japanese Canadian communities, Aboriginal people and the support of the Canadian labour movement, among others, were instrumental in making this conference a success. We would like to particularly acknowledge the important contribution of the First Nations Longhouse, which has been a sanctuary where survivors feel safe, and participants from diverse communities feel spiritually supported in dealing difficult issues. We look forward to further collaborative efforts in the struggle for justice and peace.

We note for ourselves and for others that some people in communities that have been victims, past or present, are at times understandably hesitant to fully participate in broad based movements because of lingering fears that they will be victimized again. Overcoming this fear requires step by step solidarity building and outreach by mainstream organizations.

At the beginning of this conference, we suggested that the invasion of Iraq constituted a crime against peace. After two days of discussion there have been no dissenting voices. Indeed the bombing of Baghdad only strengthens our view. We joined in the international anti-war protest on Saturday, March 22, and will continue to work to help integrate the movement for historical redress and reconciliation with the anti-war movement in Canada and abroad. When this war ends, we believe that perpetrators of war crimes, whether victors or vanquished, should be taken before the International Criminal Court. The activities of the US - the current sole superpower have given birth to a renewed movement for peace and social justice throughout the world. This world public opinion shall prevail.

The spirit of the survivors of crimes against humanity, past and present, stands as a candle of hope in these troubled times. To them we commit our determination to support the survivors' demand for redress, to prevent crimes against humanity and to achieve justice and peace.

Endorsed By:

Canada Association for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia (ALPHA)
Canada Asia Pacific Resource Network (CAPRN)
Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association (JCCA), Human Rights Committee
UBC First Nations House of Learning
UBC Women's Studies and Gender Relations
UBC International House

May 8, 2003

Mr. David Cadman,
City Councillor and Chair
Vancouver City Peace Committee

Ms. Ellen Woodsworth
City Councillor and Vice-Chair
Vancouver City Peace Committee

An Open Letter: Considering a World Peace Forum (2005)

Congratulations on re-establishing the Vancouver City Peace Committee and adopting the administrative guidelines that will hopefully have this committee up and running in the near future. We would like to submit for your and the peace committee's consideration, a proposal concerning the organization of a World Peace Forum in Vancouver in 2005. This suggestion first arose out of a peace workshop at the Preventing Crimes against Humanity conference held at the First Nation's House of Learning on March 21st and 22nd and was adopted unanimously by over 250 participants attending the final plenary. We support the intent of this proposal and believe it deserves careful consideration by you, the City peace committee and by City councillors as a whole.

We forward the suggestion of a world peace forum to you for a number of reasons. The recent invasion and occupation of Iraq raises the spectre of a resurgent militarism on a global scale. The Bush administration's determination to exert its military profile through invasions, through its huge military expenditures, and through the establishment of a new missile program pose new threats to the world. Furthermore, the Bush Administration's determination to ignore multi-lateral actions on the International Criminal Court and the anti-ballistic missile treaty, among others, are important signals of a dangerous unilateralism.

At the same time, the courageous stand of the Canadian government not to participate in the invasion of Iraq is an extremely important marker, widely supported by Canadians. However, a backlash has now emerged and certain forces have begun a campaign to further integrate Canada into the U.S. military system. Recent indications that the Canadian government will participate in national missile defence are also very worrying. At such an important juncture in Canadian history, bringing peace activists from around the world to Vancouver would remind Canadians that they are not alone in the struggle for sovereignty and peace and that there are allies around the world, including many Americans.

In the past, city councillors have played an important role in establishing Vancouver as a city of peace. By once again setting up the peace committee you have signalled your intent to re-establish the city's tradition of peace activism. Given Vancouver's cosmopolitan character today, and given the current conditions in the world, we believe that organizing a world peace forum in 2005 would be of significant benefit to Vancouver and to Canada and would help facilitate the coordination among the anti-war forces in the world that has become imperative in light of recent developments.

A World Peace Forum would be multi-layered, including multiple types of sessions—research and analysis, delegated fora for peace movements, women's and anti-racist fora, varied workshops, specific days allotted to regional peace calls (Americas, Middle East, Asia, etc), major cultural events, space for self-organizing, as well as a final day of activities including a major event that would bring together peace activists at the forum with the citizens of greater Vancouver, including Victoria.

We submit this proposal with some hesitation. It is an ambitious plan, one that would require the support of the City and the expenditure of substantial resources in terms of both money and energy. We believe that the financial costs could be largely recouped through the revenues generated by the large number of participants coming to Vancouver for such a conference. Still, it would require support from city residents and large amounts of volunteer efforts. Even then, this is not a project that can be simply decided by the city itself. It would require the support of the peace movement in surrounding regions and from across Canada, including Quebec, as well as a substantial agreement from the anti-war movements in other countries. Coordination with the World Social Forum would also be advisable and, if necessary, the City should send representatives to the next forum to be held in Mumbai, India from January 16-21, 2004.

We believe that a world peace forum would provide further impetus to local, regional and pan-Canadian activities. Activists at all levels would not only be able to participate in the world forum, it would be important to tap into local experiences in planning the forum, and to involve regional activists in hosting activities.

The success of such a project would require in the first stage, between now and the early fall, a determination by the peace committee and city council to pursue this project by undertaking the outreach activities to achieve a local, regional, pan-Canadian and world consensus to proceed. We understand there are a number of city fora being planned to discuss city initiatives and we hope this proposal might be included in such discussions. A forum planned for the spring or summer of 2005 may seem quite distant but in fact, for a project of this scale, a final decision to proceed would need to be made no later than December 2003.

Despite the challenges of building the coalition necessary to successfully carry out such a venture, and the demands that will be created by an event of this scale, we believe it merits serious discussion. Developing a coordinated global capacity to respond to the threat of global militarism, reinforcing an independent Canadian foreign policy, and re-establishing Vancouver as one of the peace capitals of the world represent objectives that we believe the City of Vancouver and non-governmental organizations can achieve by working together.

We look forward to a constructive dialogue,

Sincerely

Gail Davidson, Lawyers against the War (LAW);
Elsie Dean, End the Arms Race;
Judy Hanazawa, Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens Association;
Ruth Herman, Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE);
Tatsuo Kage, Japanese Canadian Citizen's Association, Human Rights Committee;
Jef Keighley, Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), stopwar.ca;
Thekla Lit, B.C. ALPHA (Association for Learning and Preserving the History of W.W. II in Asia);
John Price, Canada Asia Pacific Resource Network;
Bill Saunders, Vancouver & District Labour Council;
Joseph Tong, B.C. ALPHA



CITY OF VANCOUVER
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Councillors' Office

October 15, 2003

Dear Friend:

Do you think the City of Vancouver, in partnership with cities and activists from Canada and around the world, should host a world peace forum in 2005?

On September 29, Vancouver City's Peace and Justice Committee approved the idea in principle and is now requesting feedback from local-global activists and from cities regarding this proposal. We want to know what you think before going any further.

Do you think U.S. militarism is threatening people around the world? The illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq has unleashed untold suffering and weakened international controls over aggression. The deployment of National Missile Defence (Star Wars) threatens us with a new arms race; and the U.S.-led world arms trade is once again on the rise. Militarism not only threatens us and our children's safety, its costs are robbing cities and other levels of government of the funds necessary for social programs and sustainable human development.

Do we need a time and place to talk directly to one another? People and whole cities across the globe have mobilized-the spring demonstrations against the invasion of Iraq were the largest in world history. The internet was an indispensable tool in organizing efforts but can the Internet replace face-to-face, people-to-people dialogue? Is it not time to take stock, to bring together representatives of the "other superpower", the world's peoples, to tell their stories, to sing, to dance, to strategize and to march for peace together?

Is Vancouver City the place to do this? It does have a progressive city council that has a mandate until November 2005. And the city has a tradition of peace activism. But perhaps such an event should be held elsewhere?

Can we together gather the resources necessary to put on such an event and to help peoples of developing countries, or the South, come to Vancouver?

On November 24, the City's Peace and Justice committee will be making its recommendation to city council. Let us know before then what you think. Please send your views to clrwoodsworth@city.vancouver.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Ellen Woodsworth
City Councillor and Vice-chair
Vancouver City Peace and Justice Committee



CITY OF VANCOUVER
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Councillors' Office

December 16, 2003

Dear Peace Supporter,

I am very pleased to report that on November 24th, 2003, Vancouver City's Peace and Justice Committee unanimously voted to continue working on the idea of a proposal to host a World Peace Forum in 2005.

This support takes us one step closer to making the Vancouver peace initiative a reality. Now we need you and your organizations to become actively involved.

Your responses to my initial letter convinced me that there is strong support for a Vancouver peace initiative. Some people, however, believe that war is not city business, that promoting world peace is not city business. I disagree. War affects everybody, including the citizens of Vancouver. War and global militarism, and the politics of fear that accompany them, threaten our cities - they promote racism, violence against women and the poor, and discrimination against our citizens. At the same time, increasing military budgets divert resources from urgent social programs including monies for our schools, and for crucial inner-city projects.

There are other challenges. A world peace forum is a major undertaking - to arrive there we will need to get our own acts together, and coordinate with cities and the peace movement on local, regional, and world levels. We are making progress.

We have learned that the long-established anti-nuclear movement is already focusing on two key actions in 2005 - mobilization for the nuclear disarmament review at the United Nations in April-May 2005 and for the commemorative assemblies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 2005, the 60th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs. We have asked Vancouver's Mayor, Larry Campbell, to contact Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, to see how our efforts can reinforce the existing efforts on the anti-nuclear front.

The anti-war movement that grew to huge proportions this spring continues to mobilize. A major action is planned on March 20, the 1st anniversary of the war against Iraq. Peace is a

Towards a World Peace Forum...18

major theme at the World Social Forum to take place in Mumbai this January. In order to better coordinate the Vancouver peace initiative with the world anti-war movement, I have decided, with the endorsement of the Peace and Justice committee, to travel to Mumbai and take an active part in the anti-war planning.

Our peace and justice initiative has as its objectives to bring local government and NGOs together in mutually reinforcing ways; to involve young citizens in the quest for peace and justice; and to facilitate better coordination in the world peace movement.

We need your help. We need to know from cities and the NGOs you work with, what actions we might undertake together in 2004-2005 as part of the Vancouver peace initiative. And we need to think how we can mobilize the resources both financial and otherwise necessary to make sure peace becomes a priority of all cities, and to ensure a world peace forum becomes a reality. Please write me with your ideas or, if you are able, please join us at our next Coordination Committee meeting on January 5, 2004, at 5 P.M. at City Hall.

Sincerely,

Ellen Woodsworth
Councillor

Endorsements for a World Peace Forum

Below is a selection of some of the supportive statements from the communities sent to Councillor Ellen Woodsworth regarding the idea of a world peace forum. Of over 130 messages none were opposed to the idea. They are edited for length only. Organizational affiliation is included for identification purposes only.

Vancouver and B.C.

"Yes, I think the City of Vancouver, in partnership with cities and activists from Canada and around the world should host a world peace forum in 2005."

Josephine Chiu Duke
Senior Instructor
Asian Studies, UBC

"Yes, I'm all in favour of a World Peace Forum in Vancouver in 2005. Count me in!"

Dr. Chris Mann
Principal
Hamilton Elementary School

"As someone who is actively involved in the StopWar.ca coalition, I urge you to give serious consideration to this proposal."

Sid Shniad

"Short answer: yes.

I retire in 2004, and would be happy to work with on this forum. I was a member of the Vancouver City Council peace committee in the late eighties, when Charles Paris was the chair. More recently I've been working with the Institute on issues of violence from a number of perspectives, war included, of course.

Good wishes with the decision."

Donald Grayston, PhD
Director, Institute for the Humanities
Simon Fraser University

"I am President of I.L.W.U. Local 400 and I have been an active member of Stop War.ca I believe that having a World Peace Forum in Vancouver would be a great idea. I would be willing to put considerable effort into such a forum."

Terry Engler

"On behalf of the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance (ACLA), we endorse the letter dated May 8, 2003, proposing a World Peace Forum in Vancouver in 2005."

Roger Kishi
Asian Canadian Labour Alliance

"At a meeting of the Board of Directors of SANSAD, we discussed this very worthy proposal, and the Board unanimously decided to fully endorse the idea of hosting a World Peace Forum in the city of Vancouver in 2005. We also offer to work with you in actualizing the planned forum.

SANSAD is an organization of people living in the lower mainland, whose roots go back to the countries of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka). The objectives of your planned Peace Forum are very consistent with our mandate."

Hari P. Sharma, Ph.D.
President
SANSAD

"The steering committee is very supportive of the idea and excited by the prospect of Vancouver playing an active role in advocating for world peace."

Caryn Duncan
Vancouver Women's Health Collective

"Yes, let's - I think contextualizing peace for women in the context of violence against women economic, social and physical would be a good place to start ."

Shauna Paull
for Immigrating Women in Science Project
Vancouver

"We at the Kalayaan Centre have read your letter regarding the idea of hosting a world peace forum in 2005 in Vancouver. We are excited about this and fully endorse the idea.

The Kalayaan Centre which houses six different community based organizations have always been involved in peace and justice issues both locally and internationally.

We hope that the city council can succeed in this bringing about this peace forum in 2005."

Emmanuel Sayo
Kalayaan Centre
Vancouver, B.C.

"I continue to be very supportive of this initiative. In particular the events of the last few months have made the issue of working for peace, anti racism, and non violence in our schools even more pressing. This presents a wonderful opportunity to do just that."

Jane Bouey
Trustee
Vancouver School Board

"I would like to express my absolute agreement and support for holding a world peace forum in Vancouver."

Anneke Van Vliet, Coordinator/Counsellor
Sexual Assault Service, BC Women's Hospital

"I am very enthusiastic about the idea of holding a world peace forum in Vancouver...If you decide to go ahead with a world peace forum, I would be willing to devote whatever time, resources, and expertise necessary to assist you in your efforts..."

Mike Wallace
Professor
University of British Columbia

"I am ready to volunteer to help with it and I am sure many others are too."

Rob [Baxter]
Vancouver

"We wholeheartedly say YES to a Peace Forum in Vancouver and would be interested in volunteering during the event, including by hosting one or two participants."

Joanne Van Senellenberg and Marty Lund
Vancouver

"It's Carole here from the CCPA...As one of only two organizers (Shannon was the other) of the first peace rally held in Vancouver after September 11 (we mobilized 2,000 people in little over a week), I would be willing to work towards making this a reality."

Carole Karkhairan
Vancouver

"I believe it is an excellent idea to get Peace and Justice workers around the globe together. Vancouver is a large enough location to host such an event. I will take this up with my committee re our own personal involvement."

Hans Kratz,
Chair Parksville/Qualicum KAIROS

"I applaud this vision and hope that the city council will approve it. Although I live in Victoria, I would be prepared to help in any way I can, and I would certainly attend."

Mary-Wynne Ashford (Past President,
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War)

"I would be interested in supporting the conference in whatever way I can."

Joan Russow (PhD)
Global Compliance Research Project
Member of the Uniting for Peace Coalition
Victoria

"I think it would be fantastic for the City of Vancouver to host a World Peace Forum. If the Vancouver has the capacity and capability to organize this, than I think it wonderful to have it there.

Thanks for putting this forward. Is there anything I bring through Nelson to help?"

Michelle Mungall
Nelson City Councillor
The Corporation of the City of Nelson

"I suggest that the Council of the City of Vancouver send a letter to all Lower Mainland Municipalities asking for official endorsement and/or sponsorship of this initiative."

Ernie Crist, Councillor
District of North Vancouver

"An initiative for a world peace forum to be hosted in Vancouver would, if it were a truly serious effort, be appreciated by many in the Chinese community. I support the proposal for a world peace forum and congratulate the City for making this effort."

Lilian To, Executive Director, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
(United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society)

"Many people in the community are concerned about peace issues. As you probably know, there remain many problems associated with World War II in Asia that remain unresolved and these problems, when added to the confrontation regarding Korea, make for a dangerous situation in East Asia. We need a world forum to discuss these issues--as recommended at the Closing Statement of the Canadian Conference on Preventing Crimes Against Humanity: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific War 1931-1945."

Thekla Lit
B.C. ALPHA (Association for Learning and Preserving the History of World
War II in Asia)

"The idea of a world peace forum is right on. I think such a tremendous project would receive support from the Canadian and international trade union movement."

Judy Darcy
Past President
Canadian Union of Public Employees

"Yes, it will be very positive that Vancouver hosts a World Peace Forum in 2005.
Greetings in solidarity

Marta de la Vega [now in Vancouver]
Ecumenical Task Force for Justice in America

"I do think this idea has a lot of merit...I would want to support you and your committee to explore this idea and to get various groups here and in the South to participate..."

Patsy George
U.N. Association

"I wish to add my whole-hearted support for this proposal and express my willingness to work for its realization.

Mordecai Briemberg
Canada Palestine Network

Messages from across Canada

"I am very supportive of your proposal for the City of Vancouver to host a World Peace Forum in 2005. This will be a very important year because of the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and also the 2005 Review of the Non Proliferation Treaty. I think Vancouver is an ideal location because of the progressive nature of the present administration and the fact that it is an easily reached world center.

I have much to say on the subjects that should be addressed in such a World Peace Forum and in this respect I draw your attention to my new book, "The Human Right to Peace", (Novalis, 2003). I attach a review of the book in the trade publication Quill and Quire."

Senator Douglas Roche, O.C.

"The very thought of Vancouver being the place to hold the World Peace Forum is one that I am in favour of. The very fact that Canada is regarded as the world's peacekeeping nation and Vancouver is the city that will be hosting the World Winter Olympics; it makes good sense to have such a forum there. My congratulations to you if the City Council sanctions such a forum. Canada, with Vancouver, can once again pave the way for world peace. "

Jay Nair
Human Rights Activist Mississauga, Ontario

"Great idea. Count me in."

Mel Hurtig

"I believe that the City of Vancouver would make a valuable contribution to world peace by hosting a forum in 2005."

Dr. Allen Connolly, President
Physicians for Global Survival (Canada)

"I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Peace Alliance, which is Canada's largest coalition of peace groups. Presently, the CPA has approximately 120 member groups representing over 2 million Canadians.

First, we would like to congratulate Vancouver City Council for forming a Peace and Justice Committee. This is an important development that will hopefully be undertaken in more municipalities across Canada.

Second, the CPA would like to offer our encouragement for the proposal for a peace forum in Vancouver in 2005. We will circulate information on the forum to our member groups and encourage them to participate. If it is appropriate, the Canadian Peace Alliance would consider co sponsoring parts of the forum that fall within our campaign priorities. We would appreciate it if you could forward details of the forum to us, as they become available.

I look forward to communicating with you on this initiative."

Dave McKee
Co Chair, Canadian Peace Alliance

"I received your very welcome email this morning. My immediate response to your proposal was one of pleasure and appreciation for your initiative. I personally believe that great good would come from such a conference, the bigger the better. Invite people from across Canada, from the US, from Europe and from the South. Let's have a peace conference that attracts as much attention as the Winter Olympics and helps to build a Pan Canadian and Pan American peace movement. I have forwarded your letter to the members of the Saskatoon Peace Coalition and we will discuss it at our next regular meeting, on December 15th. We will also announce your initiative at our 'Making Peace' conference that begins this very evening see our website www.makingpeace.tk for details. Kathy Kelly of Voices in the Wilderness is our keynote speaker. Thank you again, and I wish our City Council had a Peace and Justice Committee!"

Michael Murphy
Chair, Saskatoon Peace Coalition

Towards a World Peace Forum...25

I strongly support the initiative for a World Peace Forum, hosted in Vancouver, in 2005. Vancouver has a long record of leadership in peace and disarmament, and this Forum will help us connect, analyze, and mobilize our resources against the increasing threat of militarism.

Libby Davies, MP
Vancouver East

"We urge Vancouver City Council to go ahead and endorse such an event and look forward to sending a delegation to take part in it."

Margaret Villamizar
Windsor Peace Coalition
Windsor Ontario

"I am the chairperson of Kawartha Ploughshares, the Peterborough branch of project Ploughshares.

I attended the NDP sponsored peace workshop in Ottawa this spring and it was wonderful to actually meet and talk to people who have only been email contacts.

Please put us down as enthusiastic supporters, and please keep me informed of events as they happen."

Joyce Barrett
Parkwood Circle
Peterborough, Ontario

"I strongly and heartily support the initiative you have taken to have the City of Vancouver host a World Peace Forum in 2005....There is no doubt in my mind that militarization is increasing at a terrifying rate, justified by a response to "terrorism." The USA is proceeding with its plans that will result in the militarization of space; there are 37 civil wars raging globally, and the number of child soldiers is escalating....Face to face encounters of people committed to peace will allow them to examine these issues in some depth and with rich commitments for the future. Without doubt Vancouver is an excellent venue...Yes, we need to move ahead, identify the resources, and make this dream come true--so that dreams of peace will become realities."

Sincerely,
The Very Reverend, the Honourable Lois M. Wilson, C.C.

International

"This is an exciting message. I am US representative of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace, and I am very happy to see that you are aware of the Emergency Campaign. If Vancouver is going to hold a World Peace Forum, which is a fabulous idea and I love you for even thinking of it, the mayor really should be at the PrepCom, which, we hope, will draw crowds of peace people."

Steve Leeper
Global Peacemakers Association
Atlanta, GA, 30306

"I enjoyed reading your message which Mr. Hiro Umebayashi shared with us via email. Perhaps, Mr. Umebayashi has told you about the project of Mayors for Peace which Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima City represents. If I am not mistaken, they are also planning to have some sort of epoch making world peace gathering in 2004 or 2005.

Since your proposal comes also from the local government of Vancouver, it would probably be fruitful if some sort of cooperation becomes possible between Vancouver and Hiroshima City."

Mitsuo Okamoto, Ph.D.
Co Representative of HANWA
(Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition)

"We would welcome such an initiative.

May I bring to your attention that I just returned from England where the Mayors for Peace discussed a global campaign for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. The first target is the April 28th meeting at the UN in New York for the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference; then aiming for the April NPT Conference itself in NYC in 2005."

Alfred L. Marder
Chairman, City of New Haven Peace Commission
President, Greater New Haven Peace Council
Vice President, International Association of Peace Messenger Cities
Vice President, World Peace Council

"I absolutely support your proposal to hold the world peace symposium in Vancouver in 2005."

Professor Suh Sung
Co-convenor
International Symposium on Peace and Human Rights in East Asia.

"Vancouver, as a window on the Pacific, and as a major Canadian city is ideally situated to bring together a range of people to take the lead in highlighting the central issues of the 21st century, and to do so with an eye to history and the contemporary."

Mark Selden
Professor of History
Binghamton University

"I write from Focus on the Global South, a regional research and advocacy institute based in Bangkok (www.focusweb.org) we enthusiastically and excitedly endorse your idea of a World Peace Forum in 2005"

Herbert Docena
Focus on the Global South

"What a great idea! God Bless you and yours! I wish you and all of my Canadian sisters and brother from Turkey, my origin, and The US as a citizen, great opportunities in contributing to the World Peace. So without further ado I bid you great health, happiness and success and ask: What Can I do for you?"

Dr. Erk Erginer.
Winston Salem, NC 27105
Member Community for Peace "W/S, NC" and InternationalAnswer.org

"We strongly support your idea about organizing a world peace forum in the year 2005. Our memorial and research institute devote[s] [it] self to the cognition of history, and concentrate on the world's peace research..."

ZHU Cheng Shan
Director of the Memorial to the Victims of Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders
Chair of Nanjing International Peace Research Institute

"I fully support Ellen Woodsworth's letter."

Ursula Oswald S., Secretary General
Latin America Council for Peace Research

"That [world peace forum] sounds very good and I would try to come...I am Joint Coordinator (with Anni Ranbow) of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) in the UK..."

Lindis Percy
Joint Coordinator

6. Members of the Peace and Justice Sub-committee on the World Peace Forum

David Askew

Jane Bouey

Gail Davidson

Kyla Kinzel

John Price

Peter Prontzos

Noha Sedky

Ellen Woodsworth

The Peace and Justice Committee is currently constructing a new website:

www.peaceandjustice.ca that we hope to have in operation by the end of March or earlier.



**CITY OF VANCOUVER
PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/committees/peacejustice/>
mail@peaceandjustice.ca

**Refers to Item No. 2e
P&J Committee Agenda
March 29, 2004**

March 18, 2004

Peace Cities Network

MEMBERS (Appointed by Council
July 22, 2003)

Councillor David Cadman,
Co-Chair
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth,
Vice-Chair

Trustee Jane Bouey,
Vancouver School Board
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps,
Vancouver Park Board

Thomas Anthony
David Askew
Ivan Bulic
Amanda Camley
Gail Davidson, Co-Chair
Sam Fillipoff
Kyla Kinzel
Christy Mori
Cara Ng
Beverley O'Neil
John Price
Peter Prontzos
Judith Radovan
Noha Sedky, Co-Chair
Al Wong

Dear UBCM member:

I am writing to introduce the City of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee and to extend an invitation to join a network of peace cities.

The City of Vancouver reinstated the Peace and Justice committee by City Council resolution in May 2003. The Committee was established to develop working relationships with other cities and organizations interested in promoting peace and justice.

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/committees/peacejustice/>.
Vancouver City Council has since passed a motion urging the federal government to push forward a space-preservation treaty (Attachment A) and has initiated worldwide discussions around the subject of hosting a World Peace Forum in Vancouver in 2006 (Attachment C).

Municipal governments throughout the world are playing an increasingly important role in lobbying for peace. This is evident in the growing number of cities for peace organisations:

- **Mayors for Peace** — a global coalition of 574 cities in 108 countries working towards the abolition of all nuclear weapons. It is also registered as an official UN Non-Governmental Organisation.
- **Association of Peace Messenger Cities** — a UN-sponsored international organisation of cities working for weapons free space and the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- **Nuclear Free Local Authorities** — a national coalition of over 80 municipal councils in the United Kingdom that support nuclear free policies.
- **Cities for Peace coalition** created in opposition to the war in Iraq — over 300 cities in Canada, the US, and around the world demonstrated their condemnation of the US-led war in Iraq by passing council resolutions that opposed the war. Vancouver was the first city in Canada to pass such a resolution in January 2003 (Attachment B).

Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee is mandated to foster dialogue and cooperation between cities working towards a world based on peace and justice. Establishing regional and provincial networks of local governments working towards peace, will greatly enhance the efforts of individual municipalities to reduce the possibility of war and ensure justice. We are writing to begin dialogue with British Columbia city councils and relevant committees interested in working together on peace and justice initiatives.

If your Council or committee is interested in sharing information, including information about peace initiatives by your council, sharing resources, and working collaboratively on municipal-level initiatives for peace, please send us the following information:

- name(s) of relevant contacts in your municipality (Councilor, municipal staff person, and/or committee members)
- telephone, fax, mailing address and email addresses
- information on peace initiatives in your municipality that council has supported
- information regarding your city council or committee's peace and justice interests or activities

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David Cadman and Ellen Woodsworth
City of Vancouver Councillors and members of the
Peace and Justice Committee

Space Preservation Treaty (File 1263)

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

WHEREAS, the termination of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty on June 13, 2002, permits research, development, testing, manufacturing, production and deployment of space-based weapons, thereby promoting an arms race in space;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty will establish a permanent ban on all space-based weapons, on the use of weapons to destroy or damage objects in space that are in orbit; and the permanent termination of research and development, testing, manufacturing, production and deployment of all space-based weapons;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty will establish an outer space peacekeeping agency to monitor outer space and enforce the permanent ban of space-based weapons;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty permits space exploration, space research and development, testing, manufacturing or deployment that is not related to space-based weapons or systems, including civil, commercial, or defence activities such as communications, navigation, surveillance, reconnaissance, early warning, or remote sensing;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty facilitates investment in clean, safe and sustainable technology, products and services to support expanded, cooperative, non-weapons space ventures and the consequent stimulation of the national and world economy;

AND WHEREAS, the Space Preservation Treaty preserves the peaceful, cooperative uses of space for all residents of Vancouver and prevents harmful health and safety impacts on residents from space-based weapons testing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Vancouver City Council urge the Prime Minister of Canada to sign the Space Preservation Treaty and have the House of Commons of Canada ratify it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Vancouver City Council urge the Government of Canada to convene a treaty-signing conference for the Space Preservation Treaty, as Canada did in the treaty-signing conference in December 1997, where 122 countries signed the Convention Banning Land Mines, known as the Ottawa Convention;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, this resolution of Vancouver City Council be sent to the President and Executive of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for information.

CARRIED

(Councillors Ladner and Sullivan opposed)

(Councillors Green and Louis absent for the vote)

MEMBERS' MOTION

Motion to Seek Peaceful Resolution to Iraq Situation

The following Notice of Motion is submitted by Councillor Louis:

MOVED by Councillor Louis

SECONDED by Councillor Woodsworth

WHEREAS, the UN General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/39/159 demands that all "states take no actions aimed at military intervention and occupation, forcible change in or undermining of the socio-political system of states, destabilization and overthrow of their governments and, in particular, initiate no military action to that end under any pretext whatsoever and cease forthwith any such action already in progress";

AND WHEREAS, unilateral, preemptive military action by the United States without a legally valid United Nations Security Council resolution would violate Articles 2 and 51 of the *United Nations Charter* and international customary law;

AND WHEREAS, such action would thus constitute the supreme international crime according to the principles laid down by the Nuremberg Tribunal;

AND WHEREAS, the Security Council is bound to act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the *UN Charter* to maintain international peace and can authorize the use of limited force only when:

- there exists a proven threat to international peace and security, and;
- all peaceful means have failed to contain the identified threat, and;
- use of force is necessary, proportionate to the threat and is in the common interest.

AND WHEREAS, Canada's *National Defence Act*, R.S. 1985, C. N-5 stipulates that Canada may engage in military action in the event that Canada or a NATO ally is attacked or pursuant to an action taken under the UN Charter;

AND WHEREAS, according to UNICEF and other international relief agencies, non-military sanctions against Iraq have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children due to inadequate food, water and medicine;

AND WHEREAS, a further war in Iraq would result in extensive death, injury and suffering to the Iraqi people;

2 -

AND WHEREAS, the United Nations declared this decade, 2000-2010 as the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World" (UN Declaration 53/25, November 10, 1998),

urging all people and all levels of government to seek non-violent approaches to conflict resolution and wider education about international law and alternatives to war;

AND WHEREAS, many cities in North America have passed resolutions expressing opposition to use of military force to compel a regime change in Iraq, including Washington, DC, Seattle, Washington, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Santa Cruz, California, Ithaca, New York, Santa Fe, New Mexico, New Haven, Connecticut, Oakland, California, and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Vancouver City Council:

(a) Hereby express our opposition to a threatened United States' pre-emptive military action against Iraq that is not explicitly authorized by a legally valid United Nations Security Council resolution; and

(b) Hereby urge the Federal Government of Canada to take all diplomatic measures to urge the United States to adhere to the requirements of the *UN Charter* and to work with and through the United Nations to obtain peaceful compliance by Iraq with United Nations Security Council Resolution #1441 concerning the disarmament of Iraq of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; and

(c) Hereby call on all governments, especially the Government of Canada, to:

- comply with the *United Nations Charter*, and;
- reject a military approach to solving conflicts between states, and;
- seek to eliminate the root causes of conflict and find solutions by peaceful means for the common good of all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Vancouver is opposed to Canada's involvement in any military action against Iraq unless the military action is authorized by a legally valid resolution of the United Nations Security Council and by Canadian laws.

* * * * *



**CITY OF VANCOUVER
COUNCILLORS' OFFICE**

COUNCILLOR ELLEN WOODSWORTH

December 16, 2003

Dear Peace Supporter,

I am very pleased to report that on November 24th, 2003, Vancouver City's Peace and Justice Committee unanimously voted to continue working on the idea of a proposal to host a World Peace Forum in 2005.

This support takes us one step closer to making the Vancouver peace initiative a reality. Now we need you and your organizations to become actively involved.

Your responses to my initial letter convinced me that there is strong support for a Vancouver peace initiative. Some people, however, believe that war is not city business, that promoting world peace is not city business. I disagree. War affects everybody, including the citizens of Vancouver. War and global militarism, and the politics of fear that accompany them, threaten our cities - they promote racism, violence against women and the poor, and discrimination against our citizens. At the same time, increasing military budgets divert resources from urgent social programs including monies for our schools, and for crucial inner city projects.

There are other challenges. A world peace forum is a major undertaking - to arrive there we will need to get our own acts together, and coordinate with cities and the peace movement on local, regional, and world levels. We are making progress.

We have learned that the long-established anti-nuclear movement is already focusing on two key actions in 2005 - mobilization for the nuclear disarmament review at the United Nations in April-May 2005 and for the commemorative assemblies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 2005, the 60th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs. We have asked Vancouver's Mayor, Larry Campbell, to contact Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, to see how our efforts can reinforce the existing efforts on the anti-nuclear front.

The anti-war movement that grew to huge proportions this spring continues to



**CITY OF VANCOUVER
COUNCILLORS' OFFICE**

COUNCILLOR ELLEN WOODSWORTH

mobilize. A major action is planned on March 20, the 1st anniversary of the war against Iraq. Peace is a major theme at the World Social Forum to take place in Mumbai this January. In order to better coordinate the Vancouver peace initiative with the world anti-war movement, I have decided, with the endorsement of the Peace and Justice committee, to travel to Mumbai and take an active part in the anti-war planning.

Our peace and justice initiative has as its objectives to bring local government and NGOs together in mutually reinforcing ways; to involve young citizens in the quest for peace and justice; and to facilitate better coordination in the world peace movement.

We need your help. We need to know from cities and the NGOs you work with, what actions we might undertake together in 2004-2005 as part of the Vancouver peace initiative. And we need to think how we can mobilize the resources both financial and otherwise necessary to make sure peace becomes a priority of all cities, and to ensure a world peace forum becomes a reality. Please write me with your ideas or, if you are able, please join us at our next Coordination Committee meeting on January 5, 2004, at 5 P.M. at City Hall.

Sincerely,

Ellen Woodsworth
Councillor
clrwoodsworth@city.vancouver.bc.ca
604.873.7245

EW/la

March 01, 2004

Mr John Richardson
Pivot Legal Society
Box 4438 STN Terminal
Vancouver BC V6B 3Z8

Dear Mr Richardson,

RE: Your Dec. 10, 2003 letter to the Peace and Justice Committee about the Vancouver Police Department.

The City of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee received your Dec. 10, 2003 letter and share your views that Vancouver residents deserve the highest quality policing services possible.

You raise a number of concerns about the conduct of Vancouver police officers and related Police Department policies. The Committee takes these matters seriously and wishes to meet with you to further discuss your concerns.

The Committee would like to hear your views regarding:

- what measures are currently being taken to deal with the issues, and/ or measures that Pivot Legal Society is further proposing;
- what other groups or key individuals has Pivot identified who share similar concerns;
- whether Pivot has considered any joint public education action in concert with universities or other organizations to address the issues.
- what specific actions the Peace and Justice Committee and City Council might take to address the concerns you raise.

We look forward to discussing this matter further.

Sincerely,

Cllr. Ellen Woodsworth
Co-Chair

Gail Davidson
Co-Chair