

## **2011-0000 Finances report**

### **2011-0001 Officers' Report of the Outgoing Steering Committee**

#### **2011-01. Proposal for 2011-2013 Campaign Goals, Strategy, and Actions**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following proposal be adopted as a central approach for the work of the Canadian Peace Alliance for 2011-2013.

##### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2004, the CPA has adopted central campaigns around the issues of the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, and Canada's complicity in those wars. This includes:

- The Government of Canada's complicity in the hypocritical subversion of bona fide electoral and political expressions of peoples abroad (e.g., Palestine, Lebanon, Sri Lanka), while claiming to wage war in the name of "democracy."
- The use of terrorist lists, no-fly lists, and other criminalization measures to repress these expressions; and
- The increasing criminalization of dissent at home, such as the military espionage waged on indigenous movements, the G20 arrests in 2010, and the "mission creep" of anti-terrorist legislation measures more and more broadly applied.

As we noted in 2008, while never omitting to connect these central campaigns with other important movements (War resisters, environment, civil liberties, counter-recruitment, Palestine, Haiti, etc), having these two campaigns as our central focus has enabled the CPA to grow in influence and size, and to achieve results in the arena of public opinion which have played a key role in the development of the anti-war movement both in Canada and abroad.

Meanwhile, the war has continued. The Conservative government has launched a series of onslaughts against peace and social justice movements, both here in Canada and internationally. The effect of these attacks has been that movements in Canada have been able to, in a more dramatic way, make connections between democracy at home and abroad. The CPA's engagement in free speech defense, the tours of Malalai Joya and George Galloway, nuclear disarmament and civil liberties campaigns have positioned the CPA as a key leader in multiple domestic movements with links to opposing imperialism and war.

Importantly, the CPA's engagement in climate justice movements has affirmed our long-held view that war is also bad for the environment, while enabling us to make connections in arenas and communities, such as Aboriginal organizations and other major climate justice movement groups, with which our earlier relations had lapsed prior to 2004.

Not least significant, a recent wave of popular democracy movements and resistance activities in the Middle East and North Africa has seen a large new layer of activists begin to see links between militarization at home, and economic and military imperialism abroad. These inspiring movements have also made more urgent than ever the need to grow and broaden the Canadian Peace Alliance and its capacity to support self-determination of peoples under attack or threat of attack or control by western governments like Canada's.

We reject the arbitrary listing of resistance movements as terrorism, and reaffirm the right of oppressed peoples to choose their own forms of resistance.

## **END THE WAR**

### **Campaign Goal**

The Canadian Peace Alliance seeks to:

- End the war in Afghanistan by calling for a complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, including Canadian forces;
- End the attacks on civil liberties which have been used to shore up support for the war;
- Secure an arrangement from the Government of Canada that will allow American War Resisters to stay in Canada;
- Continue to oppose the Canada First Defence Strategy and the shameless prioritization by the Government of Canada of military spending over all other priorities; [incorporating 2011-05 from the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition] including campaigning for the government of Canada to drastically decrease the military budget.
- Ensure government spending is de-militarized and is focused on human needs and the environment.

### **Strategy**

Through our central campaign of Peace & Prosperity not War & Austerity, the Canadian Peace Alliance will:

- Build links with any and all groups willing to take a stand against the war;
- Use the media to raise awareness about the war and its costs, effects, and real purposes;
- Mobilize the anti-war sentiment by continuing to use successful strategies and by developing new ways to reach people and encourage them to take action;
- Make clear the links between the erosion of civil liberties, the abuse of human rights, Islamophobia, the anti-terrorism act, and the 'war on terror'.

### **Action**

To mobilize CPA member groups and the public the Canadian Peace Alliance will:

- Call for pan-Canadian days of action, normally to occur each spring and fall, and including actions to coincide with international events and days of action;
- Encourage member groups to lobby or otherwise pressure members of parliament according to a strategic assessment of where such pressure would be most useful;

- Encourage anti-war candidates to run in elections;
- Encourage candidates in elections to adopt clear anti-war positions;
- Encourage creativity in mobilizations and actions;
- Support student anti-war and counter recruitment organizing; including working with teachers federations and unions in opposition to military recruitment in all Canadian educational facilities and diverting these funds towards programs on non-violent peace studies and the climate crisis;
- Continue to build its membership, especially among aboriginal people, students, unions, Muslim organizations and other ethnocultural organizations, and in Quebec;
- Encourage member groups to organize neighbourhood-based peace networks;
- Use on-line campaigning to engage wider networks of people, with a view to translating that engagement into real-world mobilizations;
- Support campaigns to defend civil liberties and Muslims and marginalized communities from further attacks by governments and the media, including campaigns against security certificates, in support of Canadians detained abroad, and against Islamophobia;[From 2011-03 from BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition on UNDRIP] Support the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination, including free, prior, and informed consent and endorse and urge the government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Support and defend the right to self determination of all peoples both domestically and abroad;
- Oppose the criminalization of dissent and social protest, including repression by police and state forces, domestically and abroad;
- Continue to build discourse and analysis on the connections between Canada's increasing military spending and escalating culture of militarism and the climate crisis;
- Support the War Resisters Support Campaign, ensure that the issue of the War Resisters is included in campaign materials, media presence and public outreach activities, and encourage member groups to support the War Resisters Support Campaign.

*Submitted by ACT for the Earth & the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition*

## **2011-02. Direct Steering Committee to Develop Proposals to Clarify Duties of Officers and Directors**

WHEREAS the current CPA Bylaw IV sets out that "Directors shall ensure that CPA members in their region are aware of resolution deadlines for setting CPA policy"; and

WHEREAS the current CPA Bylaw VI, Duties and Powers of Directors, sets out that the Steering Committee shall "develop and implement the activities of the CPA" and "oversee the activities of the Administrative Committee"; and

WHEREAS these clauses contradict the fact that the direction of the CPA is actually set by its biannual convention; and

WHEREAS these clauses also do not adequately reflect the actual and current duties of the directors/steering committee, which include communication between SC members and with member groups represented, fundraising, and committee work; and

WHEREAS the current Bylaws set out the positions and basic duties of officers, but lack detail; and

WHEREAS a better representation of officers' duties, including the role of the Treasurer-Secretary as an integral member of the officers, is needed; and

WHEREAS the CPA Bylaws should also better reflect the requirement of accountability between steering committee members and a better description of their duties; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Steering Committee for 2011-2013 be directed to develop Bylaw amendment proposals for the duties of Officers and Directors for discussion at the 2013 biannual convention.

*Submitted by ACT for the Earth*

## **2011-04. Reduce military spending, diverting its funding to social programs and human needs**

Whereas the Government of Canada continues to increase funding to the Military and its supports, including recruitment;

And whereas the budgets for social programs are continually being cut;

And whereas cuts to social programs, to the human needs of families, children and seniors, their housing, education, nutrition and health care, affect Canadian safety and security in a much broader, real sense than any perceived military threat;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance urge the Government of Canada to make it a priority to reduce military expenditures and to divert the funding of military recruitment, facilities, equipment, etc., to good jobs, human needs and social programs.

*Submitted by the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition*

## **2011-06. Peacekeeping & Emergency Response**

Whereas Canada has in the past been a globally respected leader in non-violent peacekeeping conflict resolution but has, in recent years, disengaged from UN Peacekeeping missions where there are less than 100 Canadian peacekeepers;

And whereas Canada has the capacity and know-how to contribute towards classical Peacekeeping and non-violent dispute resolution;

And whereas Canada has in recent years considerably limited its response to emergency relief;

And whereas institutions, such as the Mir Center For Peace at Selkirk College in Castlegar, B.C. as well as other educational facilities, which offer Peace Studies, continue to struggle for funding;

And whereas funding for Peacekeeping, emergency relief and Peace Studies are funded through our tax dollars;

Be It Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance, working with institutions offering Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution Studies, urges the Government of Canada to increase funding for this course of study.

*Submitted by the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition*

## **2011-09. Combined Resolution on the Question of Libya**

The Canadian Peace Alliance strongly condemns the armed interference by NATO in the internal civil conflict in Libya, particularly the so-called “humanitarian” imperialist occupation and calls upon the anti-war movement in Canada to uphold a foreign policy for Canada based on diplomacy as opposed to the use of violence to settle conflicts within and between nations.

*Submitted by NOWAR-PAIX/Canadian Peace Congress*

## **2011-11. Renew efforts for disarmament**

The Canadian Peace Alliance will campaign for the abolition of nuclear and all weapons of mass destruction.

Because: The danger of nuclear war still threatens all life on earth and this is the original mandate of the Canadian Peace Alliance when it was established 26 years ago;

Because: Canada is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which continues to have a first strike nuclear weapons doctrine.

*Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

## **2011-12. An action plan for the CPA end Canadian and NATO occupation of Afghanistan**

The Canadian Peace Alliance will renew the practice of facilitating an annual cross-Canada day of action to oppose the illegal and unjust U.S.-led occupation of as the most important political activity every year until such time as all NATO forces including Canada end the occupation;

The Canadian Peace Alliance will announce the date of the annual day of action two months in advance.

Because: It will keep the pressure on the Harper government to end the occupation, such protests are needed to renew and strengthen the peace movement and are a good forum for connecting the occupation to other peace-related issues such as military spending, the occupation is becoming

more bloody, and such protests stiffen the resolve of all parliamentary parties opposed to the occupation and make the issue more prominent in the minds of all Canadians.

*Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

## **2011-14. Broaden support for the right of war resisters to stay in Canada, build anti-militarism among youth, defend the rights of people engaged in anti-imperialist solidarity**

The Canadian Peace Alliance will

1. support the initiatives of war resisters groups to end the deportation of foreign war resisters, including Afghanistan and Iraq,
2. work among youth, including cadets and soldiers, to resist committing war crimes and to reject militarism and war,
3. defend the rights of students, academics and all activists engaged in anti-imperialist solidarity, such as with the Palestinian people.

*Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

## **2011-15. On the CPA's organization**

The Canadian Peace Alliance office will either provide a copy of the CPA constitution or post the constitution on the website within three months of this convention.

The Canadian Peace Alliance treasurer will provide audited financial statements to delegates at the next convention, if they are not yet presented to delegates at this convention.

*Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

## **2011-19. Ongoing situation in Sri Lanka**

Whereas the UN Secretary General appointed three member Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka produced a report indicating war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed during the final stages of the war; and

Whereas the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka found credible allegations of indiscriminate killing of civilians, extrajudicial killings of political prisoners, and the systematic bombings of hospitals were committed by the Sri Lankan Government and Armed Forces during the final stages of the war; and

Whereas the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka concludes that although both sides committed violations, the Sri Lankan Armed Forces committed the majority of war crimes and crimes against humanity; and

Whereas the United Kingdom based Channel 4 News broadcast a groundbreaking documentary entitled "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields" which features devastating new video evidence of war crimes during Sri Lanka's civil war; and

Whereas certain footage from the documentary has been authenticated by the UN and has been declared as evidence of definitive war crimes by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings; and

Whereas while the war has been over for more than two years there continues to be a lack of accountability and fundamental rights in Sri Lanka, as noted by various NGOs, which includes abductions and disappearances, media restrictions, the militarization in the North-East, forced detention and slow progress in resettlement of IDPs, a pervasiveness of unaccountable rapes and murders in the North-East, and the continuation of oppressive and exclusionary policies based on ethnicity; and

Whereas despite compelling evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Sri Lankan government outright dismisses the analysis of the UN Special Rapporteur and the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lankan Government further remains unwilling to engage in a proper accountability process; and

Whereas the Canadian Peace Alliance has stood in solidarity and consistently supported the Tamil community's call for justice, fairness, and human rights while being a strong voice for peace on the global stage.

Be It Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance shall endorse the international call to immediately establish an independent, international, and impartial mechanism to ensure truth, accountability and justice in Sri Lanka; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance encourages its members to pressure the Federal Government to unequivocally call for an international war crimes inquiry to establish accountability and true reconciliation.

Be It Further Resolved that the Canadian Peace Alliance encourages its member organizations to stand in solidarity with the Tamil nation in their global struggle for self-determination and freedom.

*Submitted by NCCT*

Be It Resolved That the Canadian Peace Alliance endorse the Pongu Tamil Rally for Self-Determination on Saturday, October 29, 2011 supporting the unified Tamil call for self-determination and freedom.

*Submitted by NCCT*

## **2011-20. Motion to create a Past Co Chair position**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CPA Bylaws be amended as follows:

### VIII. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the CPA shall be two Co-Chairs and a Treasurer-Secretary. There shall also be up to two posts for the office of Past Chair, non-voting.
2. Officers of the CPA, including the Co-chairs shall be appointed by resolution of the Steering Committee at the first meeting of the Steering Committee following the annual meeting of member groups in which the directors are elected or appointed.

3. The Officers of the CPA shall hold office for one (1) year from the date of appointment or until their successors are appointed in their place.

4. An Officer position shall be automatically vacated:

- a) by resolution of the Steering Committee at any time; or
- b) by resignation of an Officer from her/his officer position;

provided that if any vacancy shall occur for any reason in this paragraph, the Steering Committee may, by appointment fill the vacancy with a person who is a director, except the position of Past Chair, which shall remain vacant should a vacancy occur for any reason in this paragraph.

*Submitted by ACT for the Earth*

## **2011-21. Resolution to Oppose Security Certificates**

WHEREAS the 2008 Canadian Peace Alliance convention passed a motion for a campaign to "Support campaigns to defend civil liberties and Muslims from further attacks by governments" and has consistently supported the campaign against Security Certificates since 2006, and

WHEREAS the CPA has signed on to the most recent campaign to renew opposition to Security Certificates launched by the Justice for Mohamed Harkat Committee, and

WHEREAS the CPA has not explicitly passed a motion on Security Certificates at a Convention of the CPA, and

WHEREAS Security Certificates represent an attack on the civil liberties of the most vulnerable by their application only to non-citizens, and this has created a wedge by which the Government of Canada has begun to use more draconian measures against citizens including harsh bail conditions, tracking bracelets, and the use of secret evidence to convict, and

WHEREAS the campaign against Security Certificates has helped to expose the hypocritical and unethical actions of the secret police services in Canada - CSIS, CBSA, and the RCMP, and

Whereas nowhere is it more clear than in the case of Security Certificates that an injury to one is an injury to all, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CPA recognize that the continued use of sections 33 and 77-87 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which allow for the imprisonment in Canada of refugees and permanent residents under the authority of a "Security Certificate" with no access to any "evidence", still maintains a veil of secrecy over any information that may be used against the detained. This is regardless of cosmetic changes made in 2008 in the form of a very limited appeal provision and of the introduction of "special advocates", whose ability to act on behalf of the detained is extremely limited; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CPA recognize that those detained under security certificates are:

- Imprisoned indefinitely on secret evidence, though no charges have been laid against them;
- Tried in unfair judicial proceedings where information is not disclosed to the detainee or their lawyer;
- Denied the full right to appeal when the certificate is upheld in a process that uses the lowest standard of proof of any court in Canada;
- Under threat of deportation even when they face unfair imprisonment, torture or death; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CPA therefore renews its commitment to oppose Security Certificates, and all similar attacks on Muslims and any others whose civil liberties are threatened under the guise of "fighting terrorism"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CPA expresses its belief that the existing Security Certificate process is undemocratic; violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and violates fundamental human rights, to which the government of Canada has committed itself through the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on Refugees, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the UN Convention on Torture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CPA demand that:

- The Security Certificate process be abolished;
- That those currently detained under Security Certificates have the Certificates lifted, and, if any case against them actually exists, that they be allowed to defend themselves in open, fair and independent trials with full disclosure of the case against them;
- That they not be deported; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CPA continue to oppose Security Certificates by signing onto campaign statements, and encouraging member groups to do the same.

***Submitted by Justice for Mohamed Harkat Committee***