



Science for Peace

February 19, 2021

President's Column



Dear Members,

February is a busy time at Science for Peace.

We anticipate the arrival, on Feb.24th, of a totally new website. For technical reasons, our website will be found at scienceforpeace.org as of Feb. 24th, (not scienceforpeace.ca). Thanks to Adnan Zuberi and Daniel Garcia for delivering this more engaging website, which of course is in tune with our new and exciting Science for Peace!

The Task Force on Social Media has met twice, under the leadership of Ellie Kirzner and Jorge Filmus. This Task Force is undertaking two complex tasks. One is to create standard templates for use both in our website and our social media. This consistency will impart a distinctive style and image for SFP. The second task is to organize our members to provide copy and/or graphics for Instagram, so that we can plan our posts over two-week intervals. We hope many of you will want to join this effort, providing crisp, concise copy on issues on which you are familiar.

February has also been a busy time in the preparation and promotion of the second webcast in our series on "Overcoming the Climate Crisis". We have built partnerships with six treasured peace and climate organizations; we hope these partnerships will continue after our trilogy of webcasts ends in April. Do please attend the webcast this Tuesday at 7 pm ET: "Join Forces to Overcome the Climate Crisis". It focuses on the prospects of a broad-based grassroots movement to press for a just transition to a green economy and lifestyle. For the details, and to register, refer to Upcoming Events.

SfP continues to participate in the campaign to gain Canada's accession to the UN's treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. For an update on what's been done, and what is in prospect, refer to Pierre Jasmin's blog post in a later section of this newsletter. Rob Acheson, as usual, is one of our lead players in our contribution to the overall campaign.

In Focus on Members, our dear former Secretary of many years, Margrit Eichler, recalls some of the challenges SfP has had to overcome in the past few years and her views on our future direction. Margrit's contribution to the organization has been incalculable.

Let me end by complimenting our Coordinator, Melisa Kuc, who does an invaluable job behind the scenes in all our activities. Whatever success we achieve at SfP owes a lot to Melisa.

Richard Sandbrook
President, Science for Peace
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
University of Toronto

Recent Articles



Arnd Jurgensen: Canadian Foreign Policy and Involvement in War Crimes: Venezuela?

As many of you are aware, Science for Peace has been a strong promoter of the UN treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons that has just come into effect. Canada is not a signatory to this treaty and we are currently trying to pressure our government..

[Continue Reading](#)



Pierre Jasmin: The Campaign for Canadian Accession to the UN's Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons

On the eve of the entry into force at the U.N. of the crucial and historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), an independent senator, a former senator and former MP from the (Progressive) Conservative Party, and four parliamentarians from other parties represented in the House of Commons, confronted the Trudeau government for keeping a complicit silence with NATO.

[Continue Reading](#)

Recent Activities



Campaign to secure Canada's accession to the

SCIENCE FOR PEACE
WEBINAR
 free
7-8:20pm
 Toronto-time **TUES JAN 26**

DON'T MISS IT

**OVERCOMING THE CLIMATE CRISIS:
 What Needs To Be Done**

SPECIAL GUESTS

DANNY HARVEY
 University of Toronto
**Climate Scientist
 Geographer**
 Author of *GLOBAL WARMING: THE HARD SCIENCE*
 Lead author of reports for the UN's
 INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ALLIE ROUGEOT + **SARA BEIRUTI**
 Toronto Fridays for Future PRES, SfP Campus Group

REGISTER NOW
scienceforpeace.ca

UN Treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons

Science for Peace has been involved, with its partners, in this multifaceted campaign, of which the SfP webinar in October on the global dimensions of the nuclear-weapons campaign was a key element. For further information on this campaign, refer to Pierre Jasmin's blog post.

[Read more](#)

Symposium on Overcoming the Climate Crisis: What Needs to be Done

To view the full recording of our first webinar, please click the button below.

[Webinar 1](#)

Focus on Members: Margrit Eichler



Professor emerita of Sociology and Equity Studies, former Secretary of Science for Peace

When I retired from Sociology and Equity Studies in Education at OISE/University of Toronto, I decided to become more of an activist and joined Science for Peace. Shortly thereafter, I ran into Phyllis Creighton, who immediately recruited me on to the Board. At the second or third Board meeting that I attended, the Secretary quit in the middle of the meeting because he had not realized that he was supposed to attend Executive meetings. I volunteered to become Secretary and held that position from 2009 until last year.

My contribution to SfP has been of an administrative nature, rather than substantive. There were some truly hairy administrative issues to deal with at

different points in time. I will only briefly refer to one period. In 2017, our President, Vice President and Treasurer all resigned. The Secretary is third in line, so it was up to me to take some action beyond throwing up the hands in despair - find, beg, cajole three people into taking three important positions. It did not help that I was at the cottage with very spotty wifi. I called an extraordinary Board meeting to get them elected. Part of the mess was that we had had a slew of part-time Coordinators who were not fitted for the job. The last one, in particular, had failed to deal with many issues, including our taxes. We had 4 days to get the taxes done, with very little bookkeeping to rely on. We had to find a new Coordinator who would be able to tell us what other problems had been generated for us and how to deal with them.

The period following this time of upheavals was no less challenging; fortunately, this period has been over for some time now. My hopes for SfP's future are both administrative and substantive.

After deciding to retire as Secretary, I planned to stay on the Board for another term with the intent of working towards making the Board more central to the organization. I planned to talk with each Board member individually to find out what his or her passion was, looking for synergies, and, when I found them, connect the people and encourage them to develop some activity for SfP. I was quite looking forward to this. Unfortunately, I had to shelve this idea when I received a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer - but I still think it is a good idea and wish someone else would pick it up.

In substantive terms, I would like to propose a bit of a re-orientation. I am very glad that SfP has made the climate crisis one of its most important issues. As a small organization, we can hope to convince hundreds of people to become more aware, and perhaps more active in fighting to mitigate some of the worst effects of climate change. That is worthwhile. However, there are a number of much larger organizations who also deal with this issue. In some ways, we are competing with them for an audience. We don't have their scope, staff or influence - but we have something they do not have: an awareness of and expertise in the role of militarism on climate change.

How about working with these large, well-established organizations to find out what the barriers are to include militarism in their work? Figure out how to overcome these barriers. Once we have 4 or 5 organizations on board, set a modest goal for collective action (e.g. call for a 10% decrease in military spending). The goal would be to reduce military spending to zero, and transform the armed forces into a Rapid Emergency Response Force, for both national and international emergencies. Since there will be more and more environmental crises, this would be urgently needed.

That's my dream!

Margrit Eichler

Upcoming

WEBCAST 2021
SCIENCE FOR PEACE
scienceforpeace.ca

TORONTO 350.org
Climate Pledge Collective, University of Toronto

CLIMATEFAST
extinction rebellion
music for climate justice

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SFP STUDENTS' CHAPTER
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
THE GLOBAL SUNRISE PROJECT
WORLDBEYONDWAR.org

JOIN FORCES TO OVERCOME THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Prof Sue Ruddick, Avi Lewis, Ian Haney Lopez & more

7pmET - THIS TUESDAY - FEB 23
FREE > REGISTER NOW > scienceforpeace.ca

Webinar 2 (Feb. 23, 2021 7-8:30 pm ET): Join Forces: To

Overcome the Climate Crisis

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/join-forces-to-overcome-the-climate-crisis-tickets-138871613735>

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