



**VETERANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS
VÉTÉRANS CONTRE LES ARMES
NUCLÉAIRES**

Ontario Québec Region

April 2012

VANA MEETING APRIL 24 AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH:

"Chernobyl, Fukushima, Darlington and Beyond:"

Angela Bischoff from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance will speak about the connection between nuclear power generation and nuclear weapons proliferation, as well as the Ontario government's plans to spend upwards of \$80 billion on new nuclear power projects, at a VANA public meeting on Tuesday, April 24 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, 117 Bloor Street East (Yonge-Bloor subway stop), on the third floor. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served from 10 to 10:30 am and lunch after the presentation and discussion.

A brief VANA business meeting will precede Angela's presentation which is also co-sponsored by the Hiroshima Day Coalition, Voice of Women and Science for Peace. VANA members are cordially invited to attend this important meeting.

VANA ENDORSES CANADIAN NETWORK TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS MARCH 26, 2012 APPEAL TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

VANA made a financial contribution towards the organizing of a Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons meeting in Ottawa on March 26. Bruce Mutch from Toronto and Jordan Bishop from Ottawa were the VANA delegates attending. Bruce will give a brief report at the April 24 meeting.

Jordan reports that "the March 26 roundtable of the CNANW was quite informative. Peter Jones of the University of Ottawa spoke on the internal situation in Iran, outlining the diverse factions that exist in that country. Both he

and other participants deplored the current "soap opera" that dominates the Western press on the subject of Iran. He noted that the sanctions imposed have created hardship among the ordinary people of the country. César Jaramillo of Project Ploughshares read a list of conditions imposed by Western powers for ending the sanctions, conditions that amount to "unconditional surrender" and that are impossible to fulfill. The meeting expressed hope that Canada might host a meeting to discuss a nuclear weapons convention."

Following is the text of the March 26 Roundtable Statement endorsed by VANA and 26 other Canadian civil society groups—a new record for group endorsements!

Canadian Action at the NPT

Statement following the March 26 Civil Society Roundtable on a Global Ban on Nuclear Weapons, in advance of the Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty

“When the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* last moved its Doomsday Clock closer to midnight it did so in part because of what it called a “failure of leadership” on the path toward a world without nuclear weapons. The failures are there for all to see, but we can also point to two recent examples of constructive leadership – one international and one Canadian.

Last fall the respected Red Cross/Red Crescent Council of Delegates pointed to “the incalculable human suffering that can be expected to result from any use of nuclear weapons,” adding that authorities would have no credible means of responding to the devastation. The Council concluded that it is “difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the rules of distinction, precaution and proportionality.” The Council has therefore called on all States “to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate weapons through a legally binding international agreement, based on existing commitments and international obligations.”

The Red Cross/Red Crescent action is commendable and timely. Chronic economic challenges are making nuclear weapons even more burdensome. Over

\$100 billion is being wasted annually on nuclear weapons-related expenditures. Growing awareness of proliferation risks, including to non-state actors, is creating a political climate conducive to new action for nuclear weapons abolition. In addition, in 2010 all States parties to the NPT acknowledged the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences” of any use of nuclear weapons, intended or unintended. More than three-quarters of all countries have voted for a U.N. resolution calling for the commencement of negotiations leading to the conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Nations representing 81% of the world’s population support negotiations now toward a comprehensive and permanent ban.

Canada should join that majority. Indeed, an all-party Parliament of Canada motion “encourages the Government of Canada to engage in negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention” and “to deploy a major world-wide Canadian diplomatic initiative in support of preventing nuclear proliferation and increasing the rate of nuclear disarmament.” This all-party motion was passed by the House and Senate in 2010 and taken up again in December 2011 at the All-Party Parliamentary Forum commemorating the first anniversary of the unanimous motion.

These are two examples of the kind of leadership that we urge the Government of Canada to carry into the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT PrepCom). The following policy proposals, offered by a group of Canadian civil society organizations linked to the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, point to priorities for Canadian action in the current NPT review cycle.

1. The Government of Canada should use the opportunity of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference to declare its support for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Five-Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament. For a "major diplomatic initiative," as called for unanimously by Parliament, the government should host a meeting of like-minded States, under the auspices of the Middle Powers Initiative Framework Forum, to examine the legal, technical, political and institutional requisites for an international legal ban on nuclear weapons.
2. The Government of Canada should intensify efforts to find a suitable alternative venue or venues to take up the disarmament measures that remain deadlocked in

the Conference on Disarmament (CD). As the Canadian Ambassador told the CD on May 7, 2010, “The CD no longer holds a monopoly on disarmament negotiations.”

3. The Government of Canada should reflect the need for an agreed global prohibition on nuclear weapons by encouraging all states with nuclear weapons to begin talks and measures towards reducing their arsenals in pursuit of universal adherence to a global non-discriminatory ban on all nuclear weapons.

4. While continuing to raise deep concerns about the dangers of proliferation, the Government of Canada should re-emphasize and reiterate the inextricable link between non-proliferation and disarmament.

5. We encourage the Government of Canada to continue its efforts towards building a sound institutional infrastructure for the NPT, including through more effective and transparent reporting procedures. As part of that institutional reform, Canada should work with other states to strengthen engagement with civil society and to encourage more direct civil society involvement in the NPT review process. Civil society is an essential part of building the global political will needed for the full implementation of the NPT and for bringing all nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament commitments together into a global nuclear weapons convention.

6. While welcoming the important achievements of the US and Russia in reducing their deployed strategic weapons systems, the Government of Canada should encourage them to redouble their efforts toward further reductions in deployed strategic and non-strategic systems, and toward reducing their overall stockpiles, based on the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability. There should be a moratorium on the modernization of all nuclear weapons,

7. In pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the Iran nuclear question, the Government of Canada should work actively by supporting international diplomacy and the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) monitoring and inspection efforts towards that end. While Iran is clearly in the process of acquiring fuel-cycle technologies that have potential nuclear weapons applications (as have other non-nuclear weapon state signatories to the NPT), diplomacy should now focus on getting full cooperation between Iran and the IAEA and on providing full transparency, including adherence to the IAEA Additional Protocol, regarding all

of its nuclear programs. The objective should move from efforts to block Iranian development of technologies not prohibited by the NPT, to preventing Iran from converting its acquired technologies into nuclear weapons. Canada should explicitly reject military action against Iran and its nuclear programs.

8. The Government of Canada should urge all states in the Middle East to participate in the 2012 conference on the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. In line with that, the Government of Canada should call for all nuclear programs and facilities in the region (including Israel) to be brought fully under IAEA inspections.”

The Passing of VANA Members

We have been saddened by the deaths of many VANA members, Joyce and Jack Sutherland, RCAF, Terry Gardner (U.S. Navy), Flying Officer Ted Mann, RCAF, Lieutenant Ian Cameron, and Alice Heap, and remember their participation and contributions to VANA’s work. Bruce Mutch gave one of the remembrances for Alice at the celebration of her life at the Church of the Holy Trinity on March 31. Audrey Tobias has attended several funerals of VANA members and recalls that Ian Cameron was the son of RAF pilot Donald Cameron who was shot down over Malta by “friendly fire” in World War II. This early loss remained with Ian and led him to commit himself to VANA's principles to end war and in particular to end the use of nuclear weapons. Audrey also recalled that Alice Heap was a member of VANA early on, probably from the late 1980s. “Her support of VANA, along with that of her husband Don Heap, was very real. We valued her constant and steady encouragement and it always gave us a lift. Alice’s profound belief that Peace with Justice is at the heart of the gospel is what led her to commit to VANA.”

Because of the advancing age of our membership, we do not always hear from members, particularly those living outside of Toronto. Please forward information to this Newsletter for circulation to the VANA membership.

VANA MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2012:

To continue our fight for the abolition of nuclear weapons, we need the support of

all of our members. Our current list of members who have paid their VANA dues for 2012 includes (please report any omissions):

Ed and Vivan Abbott	Tom Hennessy
John E. Ball	Peter Hopwood
Mme Colette Beauchamp	Talbot Johnson
Jordan Bishop	James Kafieh
Alan Brown	Harold Keeton
The Rev. Douglas and Marylys Brown	Anton and Lida Kulchin
Ian Cameron	Leslie Lawlor
Eldon Comfort	Beatrice Levis
Phyllis Creighton	Lee Lorch
Bruce Doner	Thomas Lumby
Martin Duckworth	The Rev. A.G.A. McCurdy
The Rev. Charles Eddis	Mac Makarchuk
Joan Francis	The Rev. Canon Bruce Mutch
Marion Frank	Joe Piercy
Constance Gardner	Clyde Sanger
Jean R. Gordon	Eileen Swinton
Nancy Hall	
	Audrey Tobias
William Harasym	Anton Wagner
Alice and Don Heap	

If you have not yet paid your 2012 VANA membership dues, please bring \$20 to the April 24 meeting. For those unable to attend or outside of Toronto, please make your cheque payable to: VANA ON-QUE (\$20) and mail to The Rev. Bruce Mutch, 63 Albany Avenue, Toronto, ON M5R 3C2.

Donations:

VANA is very grateful for the donation of \$592 from the Finnish Organization of Canada and a generous contribution from William Harasym.

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