



## PEACE & ENVIRONMENT NEWS

August - Sept, 2020

Volume 35 • Number 3

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*Protesters - masked as a public health precaution and social distancing as much as possible - marched on Parliament Hill in Ottawa June 5th in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. They march in a tradition long carried on by peace activists. Photo: PERC*

### ARTICLES INVITED!

Submissions are invited for the Fall 2020 Peace & Environment News. Articles can be on any topic related to peace, the environment or social justice. Deadline is *September 14th, 2020*.

Email: [pen-editor@perc.ca](mailto:pen-editor@perc.ca) with ideas or submissions.

Topics for blog posts are welcome at any time.

# Revitalizing the Canadian Peace Movement with Equality & Sustainability

by Brent Patterson

*Brent is the director of Peace Brigades International - Canada.*

**T**his is a critical time for the peace movement in Canada.

Within the next two years the Canadian government intends to award a \$19 billion contract to one of three transnational corporations to manufacture a new fleet of fighter jets to replace the CF-18s that conducted 1,598 bombing missions.

Even during this pandemic, the government prioritized spending \$1 billion on Raytheon mis-

siles and equipment for the current fleet. It also intends to increase spending on the military by billions of dollars within the space of just a few years to \$32.7 billion a year by 2026-27.

There are multiple issues that highlight the need for revitalizing the peace movement in this country, including: the Canadian government's refusal to sign the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, its intention to spend billions of dollars on warships, and Canada's continued participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

We also have a situation in which the Canada

Pension Plan increased its investments in BAE Systems (a weapons company that sells arms to the Saudi regime) from \$9 million - when the Saudi military launched an offensive on Yemen in 2015 - to \$33 million in 2017/18. And with Canadian arms exports topping \$3.7 billion in 2019 (up from \$676 billion in 2015), even greater attention is needed on Canada's role in fuelling armed conflict around the world. Notably, this includes the production of 742 Light Armoured Vehicles in London, ON for sale to the Saudi military, along with forty-eight other military-related export permits to Saudi Arabia ready to be signed by the Canadian government.

We may also be in an unprecedented moment to make critical intersectional links with other social movements to challenge militarism. The #BlackLivesMatter movement allows the lens to more fully understand the impact Canadian bombing missions and arms exports have on Black and brown people around the world including in Syria, Libya, and Yemen.

The related call to #DefundThePolice enables the space to think of new ways to talk about defunding the military and reinvesting in the social good.

And calls for a #GreenNewDeal provide new openings to talk about how spending billions on weapons

makes the massive public investments needed to transition to a green, just and sustainable economy impossible.

Even the use of non-violent direct action, long utilized by the peace movement, is being re-kindled by a new generation of activists keenly aware of the limitations of e-petitions. There is a rich history of anti-war activism in this country that we need to draw on at this moment.

Our collective history includes opposition to the war against Vietnam, protests against the cruise missile, support for war resisters, walks and pro-



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action strategies, the need to transition from weapons to windmills, and ways to revitalize the peace movement in Canada in bold and intersectional ways.

These themes and others will also be the focus of #NoWar2021, already being planned for June 1 to 6 next year. Shutting down a weapons trade show, the environmental "bootprint" of war and conflict, and the imperative of divestment, decarbonization and demilitarization will also be on the agenda.

While the process of reconnecting, revitalizing and reimagining has just begun, we as concerned Canadians have a shared history that informs our work and provides an important foundation. Long-time peace activists who inspire with their continued commitment can be guides for the ascendant climate and racial justice movements that interconnect in so many ways.

A pivotal political moment is before us that compels all of these issues to come together in a meaningful way.

*Brent Patterson is the executive director of Peace Brigades International-Canada. They can be found at @PBIcanada on Twitter.*

tests against nuclear weapons, solidarity with oppressed peoples around the world, the Latin American and Palestine solidarity movements, mobilizations against numerous wars, and countless other important struggles.

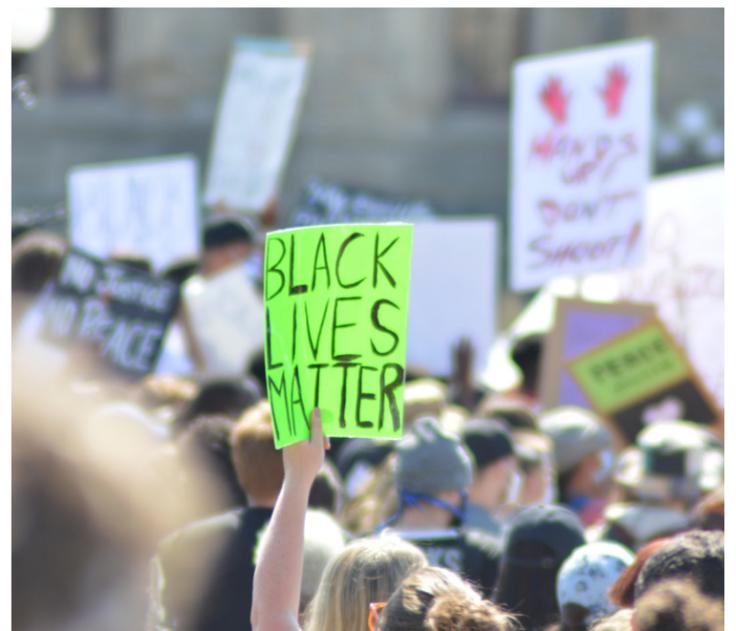
This summer also marks the 30th anniversary of the deployment of the Cana-

dian Armed Forces on unceded Kanien'kéha:ka territory (Oka, Quebec), which reminds us of the militarized responses in this country and around the world to the assertion of Indigenous rights.

These themes were just some of those that emerged during the #NoWar2020 virtual confer-

ence held in May. The conference (moved online due to the pandemic) provided space to talk about direct

**More masked and socially distanced protesters at Parliament Hill (Right, Photo: PERC) and Ottawa City Hall (Below, Photo: CAFES) demanding just, sustainable & peaceful futures.**



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**Ottawa**

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- \*Happy Goat Coffee (Hintonburg)
- \*Ministry of Coffee (Hintonburg)
- \*Grey Whale Barbershop (Hintonburg)
- \*Algonquin College
- \*Horticulture Dept.
- \*CKCU Radio, Carleton University
- \*Ecology Ottawa
- \*EnviroCentre
- \*Healthbridge (Ott. Office)

- \*Unitarian House (Westboro)
- \*Rideau Park United Church (main distribution site)

**Kemptville**

- \*Brewed Awakenings
- \*North Grenville Public Library
- \*North Grenville
- \*Municipal Arena
- \*Municipality of North Grenville Building

**Almonte**

- \*Mississippi Mills Public Library

# Youth of Colour: the Future of Climate Justice

by Serisha Iyar

*Serisha Iyar is the Executive Director of Leading in Colour, and a graduate of McGill University's political science program. She is an advocate for anti-racism initiatives and decolonization.*

It's been said time and time again - the climate justice movement has been whitewashed. What was originally started by Indigenous peoples across the globe defending the traditional ways of life they've stewarded over the land and waters they've inhabited since time immemorial, has been co-opted by those who dismiss their very origins.

For some, hearing this might be new. Perhaps your commitment to climate justice stems from long before it became popular or mainstream. Or maybe you're new to environmental groups and want to learn, but haven't been exposed to much history. Either way, it's important to understand that the origins of the movement as it stands now come from the la-



**Participants in the Career-trotters event "BIWoC in Environmentalism, Nov 2019.**

**Photo: Leading in Colour.**

bour of Indigenous peoples in every corner of the world.

During this time of mass disease, increased natural disasters and violations of Indigenous rights, it is critical that we act swiftly. To combat international government inaction and dismissal of responsibility from the corporations who contribute to the deterioration of our planet, folks are rising from the grassroots to demand we re-focus the climate movement to better include Black and Indigenous people, as well as people of colour (BIPOC).

As climate justice is

embraced by more and more young people, the more we see BIPOC taking up space as leaders in the movement. To help support these folks, and the plethora of youth who are rising up to defend their territories and those who stand by them, supporting grassroots activism is

imperative.

In 2019, Leading in Colour was launched as an attempt to bring this to light not just within the climate just movement, but in activism as a whole. Leading in Colour is a grassroots, community-led organization based in the unceded Algonquin territory colonially called Ottawa. After experiencing the rejection of racialized experiences in activist movements firsthand, this space was created to be

..... continued on pg 6

## Did You Know?

*Many of our readers pick up the PEN at their local library, community centre, a local business, or at an event.*

*If this describes you, you might not know that you can subscribe to the PEN by making a donation to the Peace & Environment Resource Centre. Then you'll get the PEN delivered directly to your door!*

*Donations are tax-deductible and can be ANY amount. In addition to helping keep the PEN running financially, your donations show the staff and volunteers at PERC that there is a community of people in and around Ottawa who are interested in the issues we cover, and care about their communities - which helps keep us motivated to keep working on this paper!*

*You can donate by clipping and mailing the form on the opposite page, or by visiting [www.perc.ca/donate](http://www.perc.ca/donate).*

*Thank You!*

# Humans of PERC: Shebah Tatz

by Steffan Hammonds

*Steffan writes regularly for the PEN*

Shebah Tatz first came to the Peace and Environment Resource Centre (PERC) in 2019. She first saw the PEN at the community centre where she teaches yoga. The current PEN edition at the time had the announcement of the AGM, and due to her interest in peace and the environment, she decided to attend. After learning more there about the organization and role of the board, she was offered the role of board member, and decided to give it a try.

Shebah is a strong supporter of both peace and the environment, and

she felt she could have more impact as a member of a group. Due to the small size of the group at the meeting, she thought there was room for her to step up.

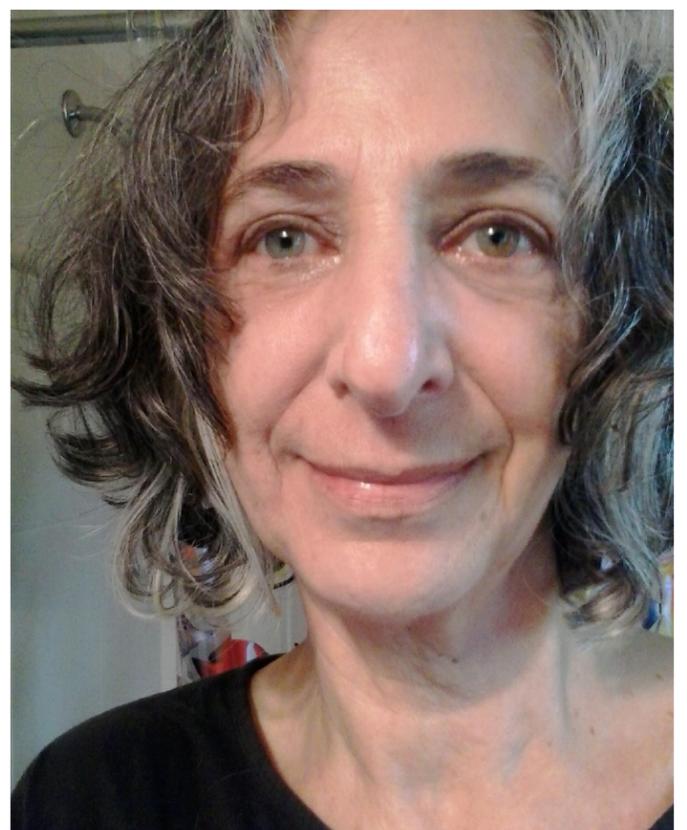
Shebah was born in Ottawa and has lived here all her life. She started working for the Public Service, in the field of Information Technology, after her daughter was born. She is now retired.

At PERC, Shebah acts as the liaison between new staff, staff and related board members. She has phone meetings with the new staff, exchanging ideas, best practices and possible strategies. She reports back to the board with the information she has gathered. She also helped review and update the PERC Bylaws and sparked the update of the most recent strategic plan. Among her previous volunteer engagements are Board coordinator

of volunteers, lone guerilla gardener, and community tree planter

Because of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Shebah's yoga teaching is on hold, but she is maintaining her skills as a yoga teacher. She has downsized from a three-bedroom house to a small apartment, big adjustments which are keeping her busy! She enjoys doing puzzles and is happy that she has finally obtained a table upon which to do them.

Shebah thinks that the board and staff of the PERC are dedicated. She signed up for two years as a board member and she intends to complete her two-year term. She hopes that the initiatives currently in the works broaden the reach of PERC inspire the current members and bring in new members.



**Shebah Tatz is a retired public servant and part-time yoga instructor who serves on the PERC Board.**

# PEACE AND ENVIRONMENT CALENDAR

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JULY 2020</b>			July 1-7 is Clean Beaches Week	1 Canada Day	2 On July 2nd, 1964, the Civil Rights Act in the USA was signed by Lyndon B Johnson	3 Civil Disobedience Day	4
	5 International Day of Cooperatives!	6 1st Successful Rabies Vaccine given in 1885. Hopefully we'll have a vaccine for COVID-19 soon!	7 Wearing face masks in public indoor spaces became mandatory in Ontario to help prevent COVID-19 spread.	8	9	10	11 World Population Day
	12 Malala Day	13	14	15 World Youth Skills Day	16	17	18 Nelson Mandela Day
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29 International Tiger Day	30 International Day of Friendship World Day Against Human Trafficking	31	

We provide FREE event listings to Non-profit groups. To submit an event, email [pen-editor@perc.ca](mailto:pen-editor@perc.ca) as far in advance as possible. This edition was released late due to COVID-19, and July had already passed. However, we included July so that special cause days can be recognized.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>AUGUST 2020</b>					August 1-7 is World Breastfeeding Week		1 August 1, 1944 - Anne Frank writes her last diary entry.
	2 August 2 1990 - Iraq Army Invades Kuwait	3	4 Tuesday Trivia 4 Kids: 4-5 PM <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a> August 4, 1962 - Nelson Mandela arrested in S. Africa	5	6 1st Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima, 1945	7	8
	9 2nd Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki, 1945 World Indigenous Peoples Day	10	11 Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Biodiversity in Ottawa <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	12 World Elephant Day International Youth Day	13 Virtual Green Drinks Online 6:15 PM <a href="http://www.greendrinks.org/ON/Ottawa">www.greendrinks.org/ON/Ottawa</a>	14	15 World Honeybee Day - but let's celebrate all pollinators!
	16	17 National Nonprofit Day	18 Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Ottawa Native Plants <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	19 World Humanitarian Day	20 Ecology Ottawa Webinar: 6-7 PM Green Infrastructure <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	21	22 Ecology Ottawa August Bio-Blitz Aug 21-23 <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>
	23	24	25 Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Green Infrastructure <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	26	27	28	29 International Day Against Nuclear Tests
						30	31

# PEACE AND ENVIRONMENT CALENDAR

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SEPTEMBER 2020</b>		September is Hunger Awareness Month	<b>1</b> Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Birds & Insects <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> International Day of Charity
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Gardening <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Sept 14, 1960 OPEC is formed	<b>15</b> International Democracy Day Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Rain Gardens <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> World Refugee Day
	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> International Day of Peace	<b>22</b> Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Trees <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> NCENN eco-group net-working session, 10AM-12. info@ncenn.ca	<b>26</b>
	<b>27</b> World Rivers Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Ecology Ottawa Trivia Tuesday: 4-5 PM Composting <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	<b>30</b>		Ecology Ottawa September Bio-Blitz Sept 25-27 <a href="https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/">https://ecologyottawa.ca/events/calendar/</a>	

## GROUPS

**Amnesty International Group 56** meets monthly. Call 613-445-3996.

**Canadian Peace Initiative (CDPI) - Ottawa Chapter** meets at 7:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month except for the summer, at 91A Fourth Ave. <[www.departmentofpeace.ca](http://www.departmentofpeace.ca)> Call 613-341-9216 or 613-276-6764.

**Citizens Climate Lobby Ottawa** advocates for legislation to curb fossil fuel emissions and move to low carbon energy. Tues following 1st Sat of each month, 7-9 p.m. Info: [ottawaccl@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaccl@gmail.com), [mwesche@xplornet.com](mailto:mwesche@xplornet.com) or 819-459-1910 (leave message).

**Ecology Ottawa** is a grassroots nonprofit organization working to make Ottawa the green capital of Canada. To volunteer, or receive our e-newsletter, visit <[ecologyottawa.ca](http://ecologyottawa.ca)> or call 613-860-5353.

**Faith and the Common Good** is a multi-faith environmental networking with faith communities in Ottawa. Regular networking events, Greening Sacred Spaces. Email: [ottawa@faith-commongood.net](mailto:ottawa@faith-commongood.net)

**Green Drinks Ottawa - Fox & Feather Pub, 283 Elgin St (Upstairs). 2nd Tues monthly. For topics, registration links: <http://www.greendrinks.org/ON/Ottawa>**

**The Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital** works to join individuals and citizens' groups to protect significant green spaces in the national capital area. Members include scientists, journalists and economists. Visit <[www.greenspace-alliance.ca](http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca)> Call 613-739-

0727 or email [contact@greenspacealliance.ca](mailto:contact@greenspacealliance.ca).

**The Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement - Ottawa (IPSMO)** is a grassroots organization that supports indigenous peoples in struggles for justice. <[www.ipsmo.org](http://www.ipsmo.org)> Email: [ipsmo@riseup.net](mailto:ipsmo@riseup.net)

**Just Voices choir:** activist choir that sings about peace, the environment, and social justice issues. New members welcome. Practices Wed at 7 pm. from Sep to June at the Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave. Info: [www.justvoices.ca](http://www.justvoices.ca)

**Maison Tucker House** Children's camps, courses, retreats, rentals, eco-programs. <[www.maisontuckerhouse.ca/](http://www.maisontuckerhouse.ca/)>

**No One Is Illegal - Ottawa** <[noiottawa@gmail.com](mailto:noiottawa@gmail.com)> A coalition of immigrants & allies dvocating & fighting for the rights, dignity, and respect of immigrants, refugees, indigenous peoples, and those living without status in Canada.

**NOWAR/PAIX**<<http://www.nowarpaix.ca>> Email: [nowar.paix@gmail.com](mailto:nowar.paix@gmail.com)

**NCENN - Environmental Networking for nonprofits. Fourth Friday of the month, 10AM-12PM. [info@ncenn.ca](mailto:info@ncenn.ca)** <[www.SustainableEasternOntario.ca/our-work](http://www.SustainableEasternOntario.ca/our-work)>

**The National Capital Peace Council of the Universal Peace Federation** [upf.org](http://upf.org) meets for vegetarian breakfast at 7:30 am last Tues every month to hear presentations by other peace-minded groups. Info: 613-218-1431, or [thestring@rogers.com](mailto:thestring@rogers.com)

**One World Arts.** <[www.oneworldarts.ca](http://www.oneworldarts.ca)> Call 613-238-4659.

**OPIRG-Carleton** resource library and working groups. 326 Unicentre, Carleton University. <<http://www.opirgcarleton.org/>> Call 613-520-2757.

The **OPIRG-Ottawa** Resource Centre. Room 215 Unicentre, University of Ottawa. <<http://www.opirg-gripo.ca/>> Call 613-562-5800 x4363/4365. Ottawa

**The Ottawa Biosphere Eco-Cities Initiative (OBEC)** provides a convenient drop-in/drop-out model of volunteering on local sustainability projects. Get involved in something you care about. [www.obec.ca](http://www.obec.ca)

**The Ottawa Organic Farmers' Market** year-round, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Canada Care, behind Canadian Tire, Bank at Heron. <[www.oofmarket.ca](http://www.oofmarket.ca)> Call 613-826-2286.

**Ottawa South Eco-Action Network** is a community group active in the Mooney's Bay area. Based on the Ecology Ottawa model of grassroots action on climate and ecology issues. <https://www.facebook.com/OttawaSouthEcoAction/>

**Ottawa Water Study/Action Group (OWSAG)** is working to educate the public about environmental problems related to single-use plastic bottles of water. [www.owsagottawa.org](http://www.owsagottawa.org) or call 613513 5668.

**Physicians for Global Survival** 30 Cleary Ave, Ottawa. <[www.pgs.ca](http://www.pgs.ca)> Call 613-233-1982 - Working on nuclear disarmament.

**The Population Institute of Canada** a group concerned with the effects of world overpopulation. <[www.piofc.ca](http://www.piofc.ca)> Call 613-833-3668 or Email: [mail@populationinstituteofcanada.ca](mailto:mail@populationinstituteofcanada.ca)

**Protect Our Winters Canada, Ottawa Regional Chapter** is uniting and organizing outdoor enthusiasts to take action as effective climate advocates. We are building strength in numbers to influence Government solutions and policies on climate change. For information please email [ottawa@protectourwinters.ca](mailto:ottawa@protectourwinters.ca)

**Raw Vegan Potlucks in the Glebe** at St. Giles Church held the last Friday of each month. <[www.SimplyRaw.ca](http://www.SimplyRaw.ca)> Call 613-234-0806.

**RESULTS Canada** meets 2nd Tues of each month to take action on an issue related to absolute poverty at the Dalhousie Community Centre. Come be a voice for the world's poorest. [www.resultscanada.ca](http://www.resultscanada.ca). Info: Stephen - [scstdenis@gmail.com](mailto:scstdenis@gmail.com).

**Transition Ottawa** helping to face the challenges of Climate Change through practical solutions on a local scale. <<http://transitionottawa.ning.com/>>

**Vegetarians and Vegans of Ottawa** have a veg\*an (vegan and vegetarian) meetup twice a month. <[www.ottawaveg.com](http://www.ottawaveg.com)>

**World Federalists Movement - Canada** <[www.worldfederalistscanada.org](http://www.worldfederalistscanada.org)> Call 613-232-0647 or Email: [wfc-nat@web.ca](mailto:wfc-nat@web.ca)

**Water Rangers** Citizen Science to protect our local waterways. Borrow a test kit. <[www.waterrangers.ca](http://www.waterrangers.ca)>

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an environment where racialized leaders, particularly youth, could come together to learn, share, and mobilize.

At Leading in COLOUR we aim to turn young racialized leaders into activists by providing them with the necessary tools to con-

duct their advocacy efforts. We offer free training opportunities for racialized youth aged fifteen to twenty five in the form of webinars, workshops, and events where they can develop their advocacy skill set. We additionally work with partner organizations to provide programming for their constituents built on the

frameworks of anti-oppression, anti-racism, intersectionality and decolonization.

One of the partner organizations we have had the privilege of working with is Girls Action Foundation. With their support we launched our first climate justice event in November 2019. Our event, "Career-trotters:

BIWoC in Environmentalism" featured a panel of young women of colour working on climate justice in various capacities.

From policy to front-line ally-ship, activism, and defending their lands and waters, our panelists shared the work they do with fellow youth, pushing the move-

ment forward in way that centers on the expertise of Indigenous peoples.

For more information on *Leading in Colour* and the work we do as well as details on how you can support us, visit: [www.leadingincolour.ca](http://www.leadingincolour.ca) or follow us on social media @leadingincolour

# Forests and Trees: "Growing" Appreciation for the Natural Environment

by Hugh Kruzel

Hugh is a long-time PEN contributor who often submits books reviews.

Did Karle Wilson Baker say it best? "Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees." A memorable statement. Having this weekend hiked under a canopy of White Pine, I too feel lifted. At the same time - and contrariwise - I feel smaller and more in awe. These giants of sixty plus feet start with such a small seed; only the germ of an idea. Given moisture, sunlight, and luck, they themselves become mature and cone bearing, continuing the presence and persistence of biomes and communities. Windborne seeds of *Pinus strobus* are but 4-5 mm long, with a gossamer 15-20 mm wing. The designated tree of Ontario, the Haudenosaunee (Iroquoian-speaking

peoples) called it the "Tree of Peace," and the Group of Seven captured their storm-shaped profiles in hundreds of iconic paintings. Asymmetric crowns from the dialogue with breeze and blow - and sometimes "pruned" - the krummholz trees along Georgian Bay, and Lake Superior shorelines tell of bio-mechanical influences and, conversely, perseverance.

In this time of change and turmoil it is essential to find places that enrich or even just sustain our mental health. "Shinrin-yoku," or "forest bathing," became popular in Japan in the 1980s as a physiological and psychological exercise. Maybe we, as Canadians, should take heed.

Ecotherapy is explored thoroughly in Florence Williams "The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative" (W.W. Norton Publishing, 2018).

In the 1990s, researchers began studying the

benefits of forest bathing, providing the science to support what we innately know: time spent immersed in nature is good for us. Williams' flyleaf states "... our connection to nature is much more important to our cognition than we think..." and she believes that forests can reduce our health care costs.

Has SARS-CoV-2 caused us enough of a pause to re-evaluate our relationship with nature? Have we been suffering from an "... epidemic dislocation from the outdoors" as Williams posits, and is the cure as simple as "why shouldn't doctors prescribe time outside to their patients?" Will it reduce anxiety and bring calm? Perhaps to some, perhaps to many.

*I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.*  
The Lorax - Dr. Suess

So who speaks? Who advocates for nature? In 2004 - and later revised for a

2018 release - David Suzuki and Wayne Grady's "Tree: A Life Story" (Greystone Books, 2004 & 2018) is another in a growing selection of books that improve our awareness of not just the life cycle of a single tree, but the complex networks that make up forests and ultimately the planet from pole-to-pole.

"This is a biography of one tree, a Douglas-fir, but it could be any tree - an Australian eucalyptus, and Indian banyan, and English oak, an African baobab, a mahogany from the Amazon, or a cedar of Lebanon." So begins the first line of the Introduction. With a forward by Peter Wohlleben - whose 2015 book about natural forests, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What they Feel, How they Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World* (Harper Collins Publishing) was previously reviewed in this publication - readers are already primed for a story woven around structures, linkages,

webs, and time.

*He who plants a tree plants a hope.*  
-Lucy Larcom

Soil, sunshine, rainfall, seasons, insects, and mycorrhizal fungi (like *Paxillus involutus*) are but some of the ingredients that ensure life, growth, and decay. Cycles, circles, continuance; this is a book that speaks of patterns and processes. It is a book of optimism.

Whether you're sixteen or ninety-six, these are but two recommended reads for 2020. Go find a forest and take a walk. Read while leaning on a tree, resting under its shade, or looking at a grove from a distance. Look up and watch the dance of leaves and branches, the sway of trunks. Observe the interactions of atmosphere and earth. Marvel! Perhaps be healed.

# Web Watch: Anti-Racism & Police Reform

by Steffan Hammonds

Steffan is a long time columnist with the PEN.

**CRRC: Anti-Racism Resource Centre**  
[www.anti-racism.ca](http://www.anti-racism.ca)

The Anti-Racism Resource Centre was created by the Community and Race Relations Committee of Peterborough to be a clearinghouse of information related to ending hate crime, racism and discrimination in Peterborough and surrounding areas. It is our hope that by facilitating access to justice for victims of racism and hate crime, and providing educational resources on anti-racism to the general population, that the Anti-Racism Online Resource Centre will serve as a valuable tool in creating a more just and inclusive society.

Ontario's Anti-Black-Racism Strategy  
<https://bit.ly/3eKQqvF>

As Ontarians, we pride ourselves in our multiculturalism and celebrating people's differences. Diversity is our strength, but for some, it's not enough.

The impact and consequences of our history have created systemic barriers that prevent people from fully participating in all parts of society. This is especially true for Black Ontarians of all backgrounds. The status quo is unacceptable. Government has a responsibility to ensure everyone has equal access to life opportunities. This obligation means taking action now to address the inequitable outcomes Black people face. Vision: Elimination of disparity outcomes for Black Ontarians in the child welfare, education and justice sectors by 2024 to align with the close of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.

**Ottawa Police Community Equity Council**

<https://bit.ly/2CVyi4u>

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) has relaunched its community-based consultative group. The new group is called the Ottawa Police Community Equity Council (CEC) and its role is to provide advice and insight to the police on ways to improve and strengthen the relationships between the OPS and the many Indigenous, faith based and racialized communities or organizations in Ottawa. Building stronger partnerships between the many diverse communities that make up the city of Ottawa is the responsibility of all who live here. By creating a network of invested residents and officers at the OPS, we can enhance the safety of all neighbourhoods, city-wide. The Council will collaborate with the Ottawa Police Service to work more effectively with Indigenous, racial-

ized and faith-based communities in Ottawa.

**Public Service Alliance of Canada - Anti-Racism**  
<http://psacunion.ca/anti-racism>

PSAC is committed to fighting racism and promoting employment equity - in the workplaces we represent, within our own union and in society at large. When our members experience discrimination on the job, we file grievances and fight for their rights in the courts and at human rights commissions. Our union also provides opportunities for racially visible PSAC members network and engage in political action.

No Pride in Policing Coalition  
[www.facebook.com/pg/NoPrideInPolicingCoalition](http://www.facebook.com/pg/NoPrideInPolicingCoalition)

The NPPC is a group of queer and trans people formed in 2018 to support all the demands that Black Lives Matter Toronto raised at the 2016 Pride Toronto parade. We support BLM TO in their demand for a 50% cut to the Toronto Police Services budget.

Representatives from the group organized the protests in Toronto during public consultations about police reform in the city.

More info:  
<https://bit.ly/3fOlquF>

## The Leveller

CAMPUS • COMMUNITY • CULTURE  
[leveller.ca](http://leveller.ca)

# Celebrating Sustainability:

## A featured column from Sustainable Eastern Ontario

by Kristina Inrig

*Kristina Inrig is the Executive Director of Sustainable Eastern Ontario*

In the Spring issue of the Peace & Environment News, Sustainable Eastern Ontario partnered with PERC to distribute copies of the PEN to partner organizations across the region. These included past recipients of SEO

capacity grant funding, and members of the National Capital Environmental Non-profit Network (NCENN).

We would like to continue this collaboration by offering a regular feature from Sustainable Eastern Ontario that celebrates sustainability across the region. We will use this column to highlight key activities, partners, and sustainability activities of note to the community. We will also continue to collaborate on PEN distribution to key partner organizations across

the region.

If your organization would like to be featured in an upcoming section of Celebrating Sustainability, please contact support@perc.ca.

If your organization would like to help distribute copies of the PEN in your region, contact Aida Hodkinson at engagement@perc.ca.



### Sustainability Star Awards

Earlier this year, Sustainable Eastern Ontario recognized several recipients of the Sustainability Star Awards. This was the first year green businesses, not just NGOs, were represented among the recipients.

Award winners from 2019 were the Algonquin 2 Adirondacks Collaborative, Nu Grocery, Bluegrass Farm, Transition Cornwall+, and the Ottawa Community Foundation. (Editor's Note: A2A and Nu Grocery have both been featured in the PEN in past editions!)

### Celebrate Exceptional Work - Nominate an Eastern Ontario Sustainability Star!

Sustainable Eastern Ontario (SEO) – the network organization that fosters partnerships and collaborations on sustainability activities throughout the region - is looking for your nominations for the annual Sustainability Star Awards.

Established in 2017, the Sustainability Star Award is part of SEO's efforts to celebrate sustainability leaders in eastern Ontario. It is awarded to groups or businesses working in areas such as safeguarding water quality, improving access to sustainable transportation options, protecting nature, sharing knowledge of sustain-

able living, enhancing food security, and developing green businesses and communities.

The awards themselves are made locally near Ottawa from sustainably sourced wood and eco-friendly materials, and are produced by independent artisans. In the past, nominations were accepted from SEO staff and volunteers, and are now being sought from the public. Recipients will be selected from a list of nominees by a committee of SEO Board members, using set criteria like leadership, collaboration, capacity building, sustainability, community building, transition, and resourcefulness.

### How to Nominate

Share in 500 words or less why the organization you are nominating is a sustainability star and email your nomination by September 15, 2020, to programs.seo@gmail.com.

Need ideas? You can check out past award winners on the SEO website at: <https://sustainableeasternontario.ca/our-work/sustainability-star-awards/>.

Don't forget to send in your nomination by mid-September!



The physical awards given out by SEO are sustainably made locally in Kanata. Photo: SEO



**Cartoons & Comics**  
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

## A workshop and hands-on activity for your classroom or group

The Peace & Environment Resource Centre (PERC) has developed an engaging workshop that provides a hands-on, artistic, learning opportunity that highlights topics of sustainability and climate change in a fun creative way.

Workshops can be virtual or in person and scheduled anytime in 2020. Participants can submit their cartoons & comics at the end of the workshop and may be featured in the Peace & Environment News.



## Book your workshop today!

### Contact

Aida Hodkinson, PERC Project Manager  
engagement@perc.ca  
613.862.2885



2019 Sust. Star winners. L to R: David Miller, A2A, Lynn MacDonnell & John Towndrow, Transition Cornwall+, Valerie LeLoup, Nu Grocery, & Tais McNeil, OCF. Photo: SEO

# PERC Notes

Our back cover feature to the Peace & Environment News – PERC Notes!

This section will highlight key updates from the Ottawa Peace & Environment Resource Centre, including Board reports, a look through the archives, remembering key people from PERC history, and other notes and updates from PERC. We are also bringing back the Reader photo so send in your pictures of reading the PEN in different places!

Send your feedback about this section to support@perc.ca.

## Board Update

The Board of Directors of the Ottawa Peace & Environment Resource Centre held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) by Zoom on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020. The Board said a fond farewell to three outgoing board members, Adrian Larose, Mark Aaftink, and Megan Poirier.

## Welcome to our 2020-2021 Board of Directors:

- Meranda Nolan, Board Chair
- Linda McIntyre, Vice-Chair
- Alexandra Keenan, Treasurer
- Akil Mesiwala, Board Member
- Shebah Tatz, Board Member

## Make Peace a Priority!

One of the topics discussed at the Annual General Meeting in May was the fact that peace issues seem to have been put on the back-burner by PERC as noted by one of our AGM guests. It was suggested that PERC could be doing more to bring back the peace roots that helped to make PERC a strong organization in the 1980s.

PERC acknowledges that much of the skills and expertise of Board members and volunteers in the past decade has been very sustainability focused. The Board will work with our staff and volunteer team to look at ways to ensure peace issues are incorporated into future issues of the PEN. Thank you for everyone who provided feedback and insight into this issue.

## Introducing Aida Hodkinson!

Hello loyal readers! I am Aida and I am so enthusiastic about filling the position of Project Coordinator at PERC. I have a background in Marketing & Event Management and am an active Entrepreneur. I'm very passionate about sustainability, local commerce and social justice.

Born in rural northern BC, my parents drove my siblings, I and our two Alaskan malamutes back to Ontario the summer I turned one. I grew up between a small town outside of Ottawa, where daily I would walk to school and toboggan local hills, and rural Frontenac county, where my siblings and I would run free range around fourteen acres of rolling hills, creeks and Canadian forest with no hydro and an out-house.

I now live in our Nation's Capital with my little family that consists of myself, my husband, our eight year old and our black cat, Amethyst. We love exploring the beauty of Canada's provincial and national parks and spending time with our extended family and friends.

I've always danced to the beat of my own drum,

lived my life authentically and rarely cared what others thought. Since I was young I have had a passion for standing up to injustice and can remember the first time I sacrificed my popularity by standing up to bullies who were harming a dear friend. I believe that peace, the environment and social justice are all branches of the same tree. They are interconnected and rely on each other. I also see a shift in what peace means to new generations and how it has changed activism. Protest, like all social activist movements tend to do, has adapted to an instant, online world. Information is at our fingertips and it's harder for folks to shelter and isolate themselves and their communities from new ideas.

I am very passionate about calling others in and sharing information. I understand that compassion plays a huge role in how peaceful, environmentally sustainable and just our society is. I hope that my work at PERC can contribute to achieving its mission which is to share information, connect and empower organizations as well as individuals to take action in making our corner of the



Aida with her family at the 2018 Women's March. Photo: Aida Hodkinson.

world a better place for all.

I'd like to thank PERC for taking a chance on me and giving me this wonderful opportunity to grow professionally in the non-profit sector, and to use my skills and knowledge to grow this long-standing organization.

I would also like to thank you, loyal reader, for taking the time to get to know a little about me, for reading the PEN and for doing your part for peace, the environment and social justice. I am looking forward to growing together.

## From the PERC Archives

Peace Resource Centre  
154 Somerset West, ph. 230-4590  
Box 4075, Stn. E, Ottawa K1S 5B1

FREE  
FREE

# Ottawa Peace Calendar

Volume 4 Number 7 Second Class Registration No.8155/Return Postage Guaranteed September 1989

## Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

by Heather Wilcox

A small crowd braved the downpour August 6 to commemorate the forty-fourth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. They were participating in the Ottawa Disarmament Coalition's second annual Lanterns for Peace Ceremony held in the Dominion Arboretum near Dow's Lake. Organizers were disappointed by the low turnout but not surprised. Despite extensive publicity, the rain dampened attendance. Nonetheless, it was heartening that those in attendance waited out the storm so that the ceremony could be held. The sky finally cleared and the Lantern Ceremony continued on schedule. Dr. Ernst Iskenius of West Germany addressed the crowd on behalf of NATO out of Nitassinan. Dr. Iskenius emphasized the importance of public pressure and he urged Canadian peace activists to increase their efforts to stop low-level flight tests over aboriginal lands in Canada's North. Isobel Hobson of Project Ploughshares was first to set her lantern afloat on the Arboretum's creek, following her reading of "If You" by Japanese poet Tsumeko Yoshikawa. The lanterns floated through the creek as a silent memorial to the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki forty-four years ago. The Ottawa Disarmament Coalition's Special Events Committee would like to thank all members of the coalition and the community who made the event a success in spite of the weather. Special thanks to NATO out of Nitassinan, Project Ploughshares Ottawa and the local branch of Operation Dismantle. Thanks also to Spider Merriitt for keeping us dry on the inside with his music.

One young Canadian (left) and two Soviet youngsters act in a scene from Peace Child. Photo: Kozma Tarasoff.

### Peace Child Comes to Ottawa

With the anniversaries of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki taking place in August, this seemed like an appropriate throw back to 1989, when the PEN was the Ottawa Peace Calendar. If Heather Wilcox sees this, please say hello!

## Reader's Corner

We are bringing back the PEN Reader Photo featuring a picture of someone reading the PEN. We especially welcome photos taken in unique places either around Ottawa or beyond!

Afnan Khan is a student at Ottawa University and Algonquin College, as well as an active dumpster diver and yoga instructor. He is in his second season planting trees in western Canada – a job he shares with PERC intern Johanna Van Schie – Copol, who introduced him and their colleagues to the PEN!

He is paid per tree, and aims to plant around 2000 a day. The camp setting is different this year with social distancing and wearing face masks in vehicles, and no going into town on days off. The amenities available at the planter's camp include separate dining tents for each five people, showers and mandatory sanitation stations, an on-site paramedic, and physiotherapy services. Three cooks feed the entire camp daily, including every day off - full course meals three times a day catering to all dietary needs. Afnan compares it to eating out at a restaurant daily. He is impressed with the camp management and organization, ensuring all essentials are provided; first and foremost health and safety, but also friendliness and good morale.

On days off, Afnan offers outdoor ashtanga yoga classes to the tree planting community. He's also been using his time in relative isolation to contemplate life without external distractions. Photo: Johanna Van Schie – Copol.

