



# Jack Layton- Councillor-Ward 6

City Hall, Toronto, Ont. M5H 2N2

Tel. 392-7903

APRIL 04, 1989.

## FRIENDS FOR PEACE

Thanks to those who attended the meeting on March 9th about whether there should be a Peace Committee at City Hall. It was a good discussion and raised real hope that our community working together for peace through municipal actions could make significant contributions to peace, here in Toronto and world wide. Lots of ideas and visions were expressed. Hopefully, they've been incorporated into the attached proposal which we could present to City Council. The next meeting THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 8PM AT CITY HALL will discuss this proposal and decide where we go from here. We hope you can attend.

Two other items. We attach a report from peace activists in Vancouver and Montreal on what cities can and are doing in Canada to follow up the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone campaign.

Also City Council has established a Committee of 3 members of Council to review the City's role internationally and the role of the International Department. This could have implications for what we present to City Council on establishing a City Peace Committee.

Hope you can come to the meeting on April 27th. Those unable are welcome to write in or phone in amendments to the proposals or suggestions for action through the TDN or Jack Layton's office at City Hall.

Yours in peace.

Jack Layton  
Councillor, Ward 6

Wendy Wright  
staff, TDN

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 27th, 8 pm.  
City Hall

**C.R. # 6**



有關市府事宜，請電翻譯部。電話：392-7307

A Secção de Traduções informa-o sobre assuntos municipais, na sua própria língua, 392-7348

Per informazioni circa i servizi municipali, chiamare l'Ufficio Traduzioni al 392-7373

Nous parlons Français 392-7903



# A PROPOSAL FOR A CITY OF TORONTO PEACE COMMITTEE (COUNCIL)

## PREAMBLE

TORONTO is recognized as perhaps the most cosmopolitan city in the world by the United Nations. It is a microcosm for our planet. Learning to live in peace here within Toronto could help in the global transition to peace.

Already, the first nuclear weapons have been dismantled; bringing hope. Yet, the risk of nuclear annihilation still exists, we still stand in peril of global war or environmental catastrophe. This threat attacks our sense of security and actually promotes violence in our children and ourselves. Further, the power of weapons of all kinds is a source of oppression casting deep shadows on all the peoples of the world. As the countries of the earth disarm and seek ways of finding mutual security and alternatives to violence and militarism, Toronto has a significant role to play.

Toronto recently proclaimed that security is a prerequisite to health, (in the report, Healthy Toronto 2000, approved by City Council in December 1988) thereby accepting that the city is accountable for the immediate personal security of its citizens. This means we should attempt to nurture and develop a peaceful economy and a peaceful culture. Official municipal activism for peace at home and in the world could compliment the City's many citizens and citizen's groups who are working for peace: from citizen to citizen diplomacy to neighbourhood discussions.

The citizens of Toronto have long demonstrated their concern for international issues in general and peace issues in particular. This concern has been recognized by successive City Councils through the years. From wartime relief efforts to recent examples including:

- \* Toronto's mundlalization (1969 - see attached);
- \* twinning with Amsterdam and other cities (1974 on);
- \* the declaration of the City of Toronto as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (1983)
- \* the construction of the Peace Garden (1984);
- \* the establishment of the International Year of Peace Committee (1986).

Most recently, as referred to above, City Council adopted the Healthy Toronto 2000 report which specifically refers to questions of "safety, security and peace."

In our tradition of international concern and in our hope for peace in our city and everywhere, we make the following proposal.



NAME: CITY OF TORONTO PEACE COMMITTEE

## GOAL

The goal of the committee would be to foster public discussion and activities that support peace for the citizens of the City of Toronto and for the world's peoples.

## MANDATE

The mandate of the committee would include:

1. The facilitation of community initiatives in pursuit of peace, disarmament, common security, and the reduction of violence in co-operation and support of community-based groups.
2. The promotion of better international relations between the City of Toronto and other cities of the world.
3. The promotion of education concerning local and global peace, disarmament, common security and the factors that contribute to these.
4. The provision of advice to City Council on policies and issues related to peace, disarmament and common security.

## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Examples of initiatives which might be undertaken:

- Informed discussion and debate of issues related to the pursuit of peace (through the production of reports, position papers, background information, a peace library etc.);
- The development of support resources and a community fund to assist community based peace groups in their work;
- Commemorative activities surrounding significant dates like Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day, United Nations Day, Disarmament Week, International Day of Peace. Such events could be ceremonies, festivals, debates, lectures, seminars or moments of reflection.
- Development of Toronto's involvement with the World Conference of Mayors of Cities for Peace through Intercity Solidarity. Development of relationships with other international organizations of cities involved in peace issues. Co-ordination of the City's role in national, international and global peace events.
- The introduction and development of peace themes as an aspect of existing and future twinning relationships. This is being



recommended by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and is being pursued by Vancouver, Trail and many American cities.

- Assistance to community groups who wish to work internationally - on such things as: exchanges, citizen-to-citizen diplomacy, development assistance, economic links...

- The development of community-based means of resolving conflicts, preventing violence, and promoting a peaceful culture.

- Development of a meaningful implementation of the City's Nuclear Weapons Free Zone position and its commitment to Mundialization .

- The attempt to develop a local economy that seeks out alternatives to military production and emphasizes meeting human needs.

- The continued encouragement of the use of the Peace Garden as well as facilitating peace exhibits and art devoted to peace in public locations throughout the city.

- The use of regular City communications with citizens (e.g., metered mail) to increase awareness about peace, disarmament and common security.

- The preparation of studies that link Toronto's experience in peacemaking to global peacemaking.

## MEMBERSHIP

Members of Council (2-3)

Citizens appointed by City Council through the Nominating Committee (3)

Representatives of Peace Groups chosen by an annual meeting of peace groups (4)

To be co-chaired by a member of City Council and a member selected by the Committee from representatives of Peace Groups

## BUDGET

The City of Toronto Peace Committee will prepare a budget for Budget Review and City Council. The budget would include both secretarial and staff support, (from where?? International dept, planning, health???) . In addition, the committee would have a budget for supporting community-based peace initiatives in the City of Toronto, in the neighbourhood of \$50,000.



## Previous City of Toronto Initiatives for Peace

### Mundialization

Mundialization, from the Latin word "mundus", is an official declaration in favour of international co-operation and world law.

Cahors, a city in south-central France, became the first mundialized municipality in the world in 1949. In November 1969, the City of Toronto declared itself a mundialized municipality dedicated to international co-operation and world law. This resolution, confirmed by By-law 337-69, committed the City to four activities:

- \* flying the United Nations flag daily at City Hall;
- \* urging the citizens of Toronto to contribute to the United Nations Special Fund;
- \* undertaking a twinning program in international co-operation;
- \* appointing City Council members to a Toronto World Citizenship (Mundialization) Committee for implementing the above program.

At this time, that is, the fortieth anniversary year of mundialization in the world and its' twentieth anniversary in Toronto, there are more than 1,000 mundialized places in the world, of which 30 are in Canada.

### Twinning

Official declarations of friendship between cities is called twinning or sister city agreements.

Following Toronto's mundialization, in 1974, the City of Toronto and the City of Amsterdam twinned. In 1986, the City twinned with Chongqing in China. Toronto has also established a friendship agreement with Thessaloniki in Greece. Citizen-to-citizen programs between cities, which also further international understanding at the local level, are not undertaken through official agreements. Over the last few years the City has developed an international department with a budget of \$500,000. More recent twinning explorations have had an orientation towards trade/economic purposes though there is currently a review of the department underway and discussion of re-emphasizing orientations toward peace and international development as recommended by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Other attachments (explaining in 1-2 paragraphs)

nwfz resolution

lyp cmttee

healthy toronto 2000 references

peace garden



ALDERMAN

MAR 07 1989



CITY OF VANCOUVER  
CANADA

March 1, 1989

Councillor Jack Layton  
2nd Flr., City Hall  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2

Dear Jack:

Greetings from Vancouver! I wanted to bring you up-to-date on what is happening with Municipal Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. I was able to attend the Fourth International Conference of Nuclear Free Zone Local Authorities held in Eugene, Oregon on February 8th - 11th.

We had four people attend from the City of Vancouver. I have included a report that I am submitting to the Special Council Committee on Peace outlining some of the highlights of the conference and issues that we need to deal with locally. I hope this will give you an idea of what the conference was about so I will not repeat it in my letter. Suffice it to say that I found it to be a very informative and exciting conference and learned a lot.

Of particular interest as you will see from the report, is the fact that we had a good discussion with three representatives from Montreal including Councillor Diane Barbeau. We had dinner together one night and discussed our Canadian situation. I understand that Christine Perringier who had been working on a National Association of Canadian Nuclear Weapons Free Zones has now gone to Ottawa. Of course, we have all been aware of your key involvement in the proposal to set up a national grouping in Canada.

As the F.C.M. approaches, we agreed that it was very important to pursue this and find out the status of the proposal that originated from the last F.C.M. meeting that you held. In our meeting with the Montreal people, we talked about several different ways of pursuing the idea of a national association including trying to get the F.C.M. itself to take on the work and co-ordinating role. However, I think there was general agreement amongst us that it may be difficult to convince the F.C.M. hierarchy at this point to take on this work. It seems more feasible that we again try and organize a meeting prior to or during the F.C.M. meeting in Vancouver of interested municipal representatives. In this connection, I agreed that I would write to you to find out what information you can give us on how the proposal is developing from your end of things.



Councillor Jack Layton  
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I realize that you are probably very over burdened in Toronto given the political situation there. I hope you can give some thought to this and get back to me either by letter or phone (my number is 604 - 873-7242).

We really do not have much time to organize something around the F.C.M. meeting, so I hope you can get back to me fairly quickly.

The Special Council Committee on Peace in Vancouver has not yet considered my report; therefore, I cannot tell you if they are agreeable to helping organize any kind of meeting or event around the F.C.M. There have been a number of new appointments to the Committee and we have not yet met. At our next meeting, when they consider this report, I hope to convince them to make an Association of Canadian Nuclear Weapons Free Zones a high priority for us to work on and help facilitate some kind of meeting in Vancouver.

The representatives from Montreal did seem to be very interested in helping in any way that they could. As you are probably aware, a peace commission has just been appointed and they are now taking a leading role in terms of Canadian Municipalities.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

*Libby*

Libby Davies  
Alderman

LD:ljd

Enclosure

cc Diane Barbeau  
conseillere municipale  
district d'Hochelaga (9)  
275, rue Notre-Dame Est  
Ville de Montreal, Que.  
H2Y 1C6



March 1, 1989

TO: Special Council Committee on Peace

FROM: Alderman Libby Davies

RE: 4th International Conference of Nuclear Free Zone  
Local Authorities, February 8 - 11th, Eugene, Oregon

Background: The 1st International Conference of Nuclear Free Zone Local Authorities was held in Manchester, England in 1984. Since then the 2nd and 3rd Conferences were held in Cordoba, Spain and Perugia, Italy. The aim of the conferences has been to allow local authorities to meet; exchange information; promote the growth of Nuclear Free Zones (NFZ's); co-ordinate work at an international level; and develop new initiatives and strategies for NWFZ's around the world.

I attended the 4th International Conference in Eugene on behalf of the Special Council Committee on Peace and the City of Vancouver. Over 200 delegates from 70 cities representing 16 countries attended. This included 73 elected officials and over 160 representatives of various city peace commissions, as well as individual peace groups. It was an exciting and extraordinary event that demonstrated the growing strength and expansion of NFZ's around the world.

Seven representatives from Montreal and Vancouver made up the Canadian presence at the Conference. For each of us it was a rare opportunity to discuss the direction of Canadian NWFZ's while learning about developments around the world.

Although local and national peace groups were represented by Country, there were also many locally elected Mayors and Aldermen in attendance. The elected officials played a key role in workshops and plenary sessions and provided detailed information on their local situation.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

The conference was divided into a number of plenary and workshop sessions. I will not attempt to report on each one, but rather provide some highlights:

- \* The opening plenary session allowed each country in attendance to give a ten minute overview of national issues concerning NFZ's and the peace movement. It was evident from these reports and subsequent discussions that NFZ authorities are moving far beyond symbolic declarations and are developing policies that give real meaning to a NFZ.



- \* Fred Knelman, a member of our own Peace Committee gave a workshop on legal actions in Canada to eliminate nuclear weapons.
- \* Many NFZ's, particularly in the U.S., are implementing peace conversion policies. The NFZ Conversion Commission of the City of Chicago is working on a plan for the conversion of nuclear weapons work to peaceful and productive use. Other examples from Tacoma Park, Maryland; Berkeley and Marin County, California show that this kind of work is at the cutting edge of the peace movement and poses a direct challenge to the military industrial complex.
- \* Many NFZ's have enacted "selective purchasing" policies that require the municipality to purchase goods and services from companies not involved in armaments work. Berkeley, California and many cities in the U.S. have made good progress in this area.
- \* Many U.S. cities (as in Canada) are making direct links to the lack of federal funds and programs for social purposes to the enormous budget expenditures for military purposes. The U.S. Conference of Mayors commissioned a study in 1988 that shows that between 1981 and 1988 urban grant in aid and social programs suffered cumulative spending cuts of almost \$60 billion. By contrast the increase in military spending was \$328 billion. The report clearly shows "there is a net gain of 6,600 jobs on average for every \$1 billion shifted from military spending to these urban programs".
- \* There are now over 4000 NFZ in the world.
- \* Reports from the British and West German NFZ movements show increasing concerns with the high safety risks of transporting nuclear weapons whether by air, sea, or land. West German delegates told the conference that there have been 137 accidents in three years involving military flights in that country. Some of these crashes were "seconds" away from ground nuclear reactors.



- \* U.S. military strategy is increasingly focussing on sea based nuclear weapons. There is growing public opposition around the world to nuclear capable warships using local ports. Massive campaigns in the U.S., Japan, the South Pacific, Europe and Canada are again on the cutting edge "to disarm the seas". A Greenpeace representative reported that there are now 500 nuclear reactors at sea. U.S. warships make visits to 41 countries, Britain visits 12 countries, France visits 9 countries and the U.S.S.R. visits 11 countries. One third of the global nuclear arsenal is deployed at sea, and is not covered by any treaty. There are no plans to date to place marine based nuclear weapons as an issue on the negotiating table.
- \* Although some of these developments are frightening, and clearly show us that we cannot be lulled into thinking that recent disarmament agreements mean peace is on the way, there is also great hope and strength in NFZ's around the globe.
- \* Many countries are making great headway in building national coalitions and associations of NFZ's. The Netherlands has for example 100 local authorities (representing almost half of the Dutch population) belonging to a national network.
- \* Because many U.S. local authorities were in attendance, the 4th International Conference also became the venue and opportunity for U.S. delegations to make a decision to found a U.S. national association of NFZ's.
- \* Most U.S. NFZ's are developed through the initiative process by local peace groups. Enactment by municipal ordinance (by-law) often includes the appointment of a local peace commission with the mandate of implementing policies and programs for a NFZ.
- \* The Mayor of Irvine, California, gave a fascinating presentation on the municipal role in foreign policy. Mayor Agran stressed the importance of "institutionalizing" municipal peace and foreign policy issues. In this regard a number of representatives of peace commissions reported how difficult it is for them to operate in an ad hoc way with little or no resources.



### Canada's Role in the NFZ Movement

A highlight of the Conference was an informal discussion, Elizabeth Leach (Chair, NWFZ Committee for B.C.), Bruce Yorke (Canadian Peace Congress), and myself had with the three representatives from Montreal, including Councillor Diane Barbeau, who chaired the original ZLAN Committee.

A peace commission has recently been set up to consider the implementation of the Montreal NWFZ (ZLAN). We talked about the need for a national association of NWFZ's and the status of the proposal initiated by Councillor Jack Layton of Toronto to develop such a national grouping. We agreed this requires a much more concentrated effort, possibly in connection with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting in Vancouver in June '89. We agreed to follow this up.

We also discussed the need for more concrete actions to develop peace conversion and selective purchasing policies. Many local authorities in other countries are making great advances in this area.

### CONCLUSION

The conference in Eugene demonstrated that NWFZ's and local municipalities around the world are a significant part and leaders in the movement to create a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Even with national and regional differences, NWFZ's are moving in a common direction that seeks to give new substance to a NWFZ declaration. There is a lot of work to be done here in Canada!



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The conference certainly helped me clarify and develop my own thoughts for things we need to pursue.

I have listed some ideas here for the Committee to consider:

1. There is a need to focus on the development of a national affiliation of Canadian NWFZ's. There are 178 NWFZ's in Canada, including the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, the Yukon and N.W.T., yet we have minimal liaison and have not been able to build on this strong grass roots strength. In this regard, the Peace Committee could help facilitate a meeting and dialogue of Canadian NWFZ representatives via the F.C.M. meeting in June. A National Association of Canadian NWFZ's would make a qualitative difference to strengthen our national peace efforts. The NWFZ B.C. Committee chaired by Elizabeth Leach has offered to help us in any way to set up a meeting of Canadian NWFZ municipalities.
2. We know very little about peace conversion work. The Nanoose, B.C. conversion campaign has led the way in Canada and needs to be supported.
3. Municipal "Selective Purchasing" policies are well developed in some U.S. areas. Can we begin such a process here in Vancouver?
4. Can we strengthen the work of our peace committee and formalize our procedures and policies by becoming more integrated into the municipal decision making/administrative structure?
5. Our work and concern about visits of nuclear capable warships to the Port of Vancouver is not isolated, but part of a growing global concern about the use of the oceans and ports for nuclear purposes. Can we develop better links and common strategies with NWFZ's on the Pacific Rim?