PRESENT: Vladimir Zhagora, Sara Beiruti, Ellie Kirzner, Bill Browett, Danny Harvey, Richard Sandbrook, Margrit Eichler, Phyllis Creighton, Rob Acheson, Arnd Jurgensen, Lyn Adamson, Melisa Kuc, Jorge Filmus, Judy Deutsch

Jack Poulson is unfortunately moving to the U.S. and can no longer participate; this is a great loss

Sorpong Peou has had an operation and cannot attend

EVALUATION OF WEBINARS AND THE NUCLEAR CAMPAIGN – Rob, Richard
- ratification of the TPNW has generated a lot of interest
- our first webinar, presented by Ray, was full of good information - we learned a lot.
- the theme centered on how to get beyond Liberal government hypocrisy; on Oct 14, the Liberals proclaimed themselves working tirelessly for nuclear disarmament but then committed themselves to the concept of nuclear deterrence. The government also maintains it is pursuing a feminist foreign policy – but nuclear weapons are antithetical to this
- the second webinar: we were one of four sponsors and over 300 people attended – very successful in these times. Liberal Hedy Fry dropped out but the NDP, Greens, and Bloc declared support for the ban
- we have to expose the Liberals and attempt to push for an all-party debate on the issue
- Nicolas and I are working on an e-petition; we hope to attract several thousand signatures. It sometimes takes a year to contact an MP
- its great to see all these disarmament groups cooperate and coordinate; it’s amazing what you can accomplish if no one cares about who gets the credit

Richard: Anton Wagner is talking about a press conference, letters to editor – he has a number of things underway. Could we use Julietta to keep an eye on all this and, with Rob, figure out what SfP should do?

Rob: the Hill Times may take our Open Letter to the PM as an op ed; we should try that route before we spend money on an ad

Bill: is anyone experienced in writing the actual legislation needed for Parliament?

Judy: refers to past experience with Lynn McDonald’s (a former Board member) private members bill on restricting smoking and banning tobacco advertising
Rob: we can see the kinds of legislation other countries have drawn up

Ellie: perhaps we can follow-up with the Greens, Bloc and NDP about the possibilities of a private members bill

Danny: doctrine of nuclear deterrence has to change but isn’t the issue getting countries to simultaneously step down?

Discussion follows this.

Phyllis comments that the land mine ban treaty was scoffed at because countries that had them didn’t sign, but the treaty served to de-legitimize these weapons. The Americans told other nations not to sign the TPNW because they know what the process of de-legitimization works like.

Richard: points to our Open Letter on our website and concurs that it would be good to have it published in the Hill Times as an op-ed.

Judy: mentions that Canadian Dimension published our Webinar poster on its website

Ellie: attempts to clarify that there are three actions going on- the PeaceQuest letter, our Open Letter, and the e-petition.

Lyn: the e-petition would take three months but the Open Letter can go right away. We need to add to the pressure – the letter in the Hill Times, the press conference on the day the Treaty comes into enforcement. It all adds up.

Rob: we have an extensive campaign – we’re asking mayors to support the pact and push their governments to sign it. Letters have been sent to 178 cities. Julietta is gathering info on Canada Pension investments in nuclear material - we can go after Canada Pension.

Judy: the Treaty comes into force after the inauguration. Can these be tied together? Could we connect the Treaty to the change of executive in the U.S.?

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Richard: seeks to approve the Agenda and to add the vice-presidency issue to it. Vladimir moves, Lyn seconds. Passed

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: from July 22 Arnd moves, Judy seconds. Passed.

RETURN TO DISCUSSION OF WEBINARS
Richard: the first had 63 people – it was a good experience; the second which we co-sponsored had over 300 and was very effective; the two events fitted in well with our campaign.
Danny: was impressed by the friendliness of the three party reps (in the second webinar.) The Bloc rep even apologized for his English

Rob: it was amazing that the Bloc appeared – to show up at an English-speaking webinar was jaw-dropping. Reminds us that he sent around an article by Yves Engler on Canada’s support for nukes.

Lyn: feels Fry was told not to attend

Rob: Fry is a member of Parliamentarians vs Nuclear Proliferation; she must have been told from the top not to attend the webinar

REPORT ON UPCOMING CLIMATE WEBINARS – Richard
Overcoming the climate Crisis:
- 1) Jan 26 – What Needs to be Done to Avoid Climate Catastrophe with Danny Harvey
- 2) Building Coalitions for Green Just Transition
- 3) The Climate-Peace Nexus
- poster is already done for Jan 26
- target group is high school and post-secondary students
- it won’t be your average webinar; we’re in the business of selling ideas so we have to be experimental
- Gary Topp has provided advice – he’s all show business
- we have to be lively and engaging – after all, people in their 20’s and 30’s will suffer the worst from climate effects
- Arnd has organized the second webinar – Avi Lewis has agreed to participate, also an academic from California (Ian Haney Lopey) and U of T activist geographer Sue Ruddick
- In terms of the third one, we are working with World Beyond War
- we have been paying for a webinar Zoom accommodating 100 but we have cancelled that
- for $300, a professional organization can run our webinar – they can do many things, like IDing speakers etc.

Judy: has a word of caution in the effort to reach a younger audience: we should be careful about underplaying the climate emergency. Young people follow Greta Thunberg and march against violence (Parkland). We can’t be about separating battles and can’t diminish the crisis.

Richard: assures there will be no dumbing down

Lyn: suggests involving Climate Strike activists, the Fridays for Future people

Richard: the interns will participate in the first webinar, asking questions of Danny
Lyn: stresses the importance of engaging young people

Richard: the third climate webinar might possibly include David Suzuki, Tamara Lorincz, filmmaker Tasha

FINANCING FOR A FULL-TIME STAFFER – Richard
- asking Juliette to find out how to make applications to foundations to fund a SfP full-time staffer
- everyone who has been president has found out how much time it takes to do the job; it’s a big commitment.
- there’s so many things we aren’t doing that we could do with a staffer
- we should make the effort to raise funds as well as asking members to remember us in their wills
- the idea is to move from where we’re strong (ie, nuclear disarmament) to other areas
- Julietta can work on the funding issue as well as the nuclear campaign

Arnd: We could organize a fundraiser and get musicians to perform. Gary Topp would know how to do this.

Richard and Jorge think this a great idea.

Lyn: suggests ways to fundraise: when people register for Environmental Defence webinars, they are asked to contribute; another organization asks for donations in honour of someone

Richard: reminds all that Go Fund Me can also be used

REPORT ON CAMPUS GROUP – Sara
- group wants to organize a webinar on the connection between climate change and reconciliation and is thinking of asking Melanie Jeffries (from the Centre for Indigenous Studies) to participate
- their webinar could be held at the end of February; not good to hold it after school ends

Richard: suggests beginning of March

Discussion of what Zoom to use for campus webinar – Margrit suggests Richard could get a U of T address; Richard realizes he can use his own U of T Zoom account

Sara: hopes in organizing the webinar that they can partner with Indigenous student organizations

Lyn: suggests group contacts Fridays for Future Indigenous liaison, Cricket Guest
Sara says they are hoping for a panel

Lyn: suggests as well, Vanessa Gray from Aamjiwnaang

TREASURER’S REPORT – Rob
– our chequing account balance is just under $70,000 and we have about $242,000 in assets, which is very healthy
– the Blumenfeld Fund bank balance has about $35,000 and the fund has $21,000 in Solar Shares
– our revenues aren’t great and our expenditures thus far have exceeded income by about $3000, but that should level out as many members pay their dues at year end
– we have entered into a project with VOW for which we have received one donation of $5000.00 and a pending donation of $6119 (in securities), which has been received but not yet disbursed by Canada Helps. Of these, SfP will receive $1000.00, the balance of the two donations; $10,119.00 will be given to VOW for the project.
– we are in a healthy position financially; I don’t begrudge Richard’s use of professional webinar organizers if it boosts our ability to reach out
– money needs to be used; we don’t want the world to end with us having $300,000 in the bank

MOTION: to adopt Treasurer’s Report, Bill moves, Margrit seconds. Passed.

DISCUSSION ON THE USE OF SLACK

Margrit: anything that doesn’t come into my emails, I don’t do

Danny: the idea of Slack is that you have different strands for different topics

Richard: Adnan warns us that if sfp physics (which we use for email) breaks down, no one is there to repair it, thus suggesting its wise to get use to Slack as the alternative

Lyn: Slack does sent emails to alert participants

Ellie: looks like we’re operating on two tiers – emails and Slack as part of a transition

Jorge: we do have to get use to Slack in the long run

VP POSITION – Richard
– this position is not filled; our goal is to have it be a woman
– I have approached two high-profile women and both refused
– suggests Jorge fill this post in the short term, as we continue the search for a female candidate
MOTION: to accept Jorge as interim VP, Margrit moves; Rob seconds. Passes

Ellie: let’s not use language that assumes VP moves into presidency in case it frightens off a prospective VP candidate

Richard: really we want to add a woman member at large to the exec with the hope the person will transition to VP