



Science for Peace

November 25, 2020

President's Column



Dear Members,

Science for Peace focused its energies this term on how to eliminate nuclear weapons. Our webinar on Oct. 26th featured Ray Acheson, who provided a very full update for activists on efforts at the global level to build support for the UN Treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. The second webinar in this series - *Why Hasn't Canada Signed the UN Nuclear Ban?* - was organized by the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute and co-sponsored by Science for Peace. A program, involving many peace and allied organizations, to pressure the Canadian government into signing the treaty is now underway.

In the Winter term, we continue with our push for a nuclear ban, but expand our activities to include three linked webinars, which are described under "Upcoming" below. Registration is open for the first webinar on Jan. 26: be the first to sign up!

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

Recent Activities

Symposium on Working for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: Global Efforts

October 26, 2 PM with Ray Acheson. To view the full recording, please [click here](#).



Why hasn't Canada signed the UN Nuclear Ban Treaty? November 19, 2020

A webinar on the need for Canada to sign the UN Nuclear Ban Treaty, organized by the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute and co-sponsored by Science for Peace. For the full recording, please [click here](#).



Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

On January 22, 2021 the historic United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will enter into force for ratifying states. The treaty, negotiated and adopted by 122 non-nuclear nations, is an extraordinary achievement which points to a world free from the existential threat of nuclear war. To read the treaty, [click here](#).

Focus on Members: Phyllis Creighton



Historian, Editor, and an early member of Science for Peace

Science for Peace in Perspective

I joined Science for Peace not long after it started. When I called Eric Fawcett to ask how to join, he rejoined, "what's your discipline?" and when I replied "history," he told me to go found a peace organization for historians! I insisted "I want to work with scientists," had attended a futures conference with Chalk River scientists, and then the World Council of Churches' conference on Faith, Science, and the Future at MIT in 1979, and with a young MIT physicist had developed a resolution on Science for Peace, calling university scientists to refuse contracts for military research and to teach their students this principle. Eric relented, and I joined.

I was secretary of the Toronto Chapter of SfP (1986-88), and then its chair (1990-92) and in 1993 was elected to the SfP national board. Coordinating an SfP defence policy group, I co-authored its paper, "Defence conversion for the 90s: a new security policy for Canada," which concluded Canada should get out of the nuclear NATO alliance and it was presented to the Citizen's Inquiry into Peace and Security on 8 Oct. 1991. I was also in the SfP working group that presented "Canada's security: threats and responses," a brief to a parliamentary defence policy review committee on 16 June 1994.

With Eric Fawcett, I co-chaired the SfP working group on human rights in 1995, and wrote many letters on SfP letterhead for Amnesty International appeals. We also supported Nancy Olivieri in her struggle to retain her scientific integrity against the Hospital for Sick Children.

When SfP president Helmut Burkhardt organized a series of interdisciplinary evolution of world order conferences, I presented papers on: international debt (1999), the arts, spiritual reflection, and the web of life (2002), and social justice, corporations, and transparency (2004). A working group on genetics and biotechnology I co-chaired with Edwin Daniel submitted comments on the future of food biotechnology to the Royal Society of Canada in 2000. I had published work for the Anglican Church on ethics related to reproductive issues as well as homosexuality, so I co-chaired the SfP working group on science and ethics in 2000, which developed a statement about ethics for scientists.

Serving as SfP vice-president in 2005-6, I rejected the proposal of Mel Watkins, the SfPs president, that I run for election as president. I believe SfP needs to be chaired by a scientist - even if one of a "dismal" science like economics! A paper I had presented at the North American hearing of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life in 1994, put forward the idea that interconnectedness -- the web of life -- is the paradigm needed now, rather than the governing Enlightenment paradigm of reason, technology, and progress. Derek Paul and I co-authored "A new paradigm for policy making: a statement by SfP," 12 July 2002, based on that 1994 presentation. For the Global Issues Project, a joint SfP/Pugwash endeavour, and the Breuninger Foundation In 2006, I was a presenter in a workshop on "Creating the paradigm shift to social justice and a green Earth" at the Vancouver World Peace Forum in 2006.

Over the years I wrote many articles on nuclear weapons for the SfP Bulletin. I served as SfP secretary (2006-8), and also as SfP representative to the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons from 2002-13. That's when heart failure intervened. Luckily I had made friends at SfP lectures with Rob Acheson and I asked him if he would be interested in replacing me -- he was such a sound person on nuclear issues. When he replied, "Yes," but I'm not a university grad, I'm a business. " "But you can think, and have sound views on nuclear issues, and we can see you become a member of SfP." I have been an active member since 2014 of Rob's Nuclear Weapons Working Group, now busy enlisting support for Canada's signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which will become international law on 22 Jan. 2021.

In 2007 I joined Derek Paul on the steering committee of the SfP/Pugwash Global Issues Project and I coordinated organization of two roundtables: a no-growth economics one (2010)

with Peter Victor and Tim Jackson, ecological economists. and a space roundtable, held at Project Ploughshares in Kitchener, with Bruce Gagnon, which issued a strong statement against weapons in space. It is still on Project Ploughshares' website.

A researcher and translator for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography from 1967, in 1999 I finally became an academic -- adjunct faculty in Trinity College's Faculty of Divinity (an honorific post).

Science for Peace has played a big part in my life!

Upcoming



Symposium on Overcoming the Climate Clisis

Webinar 1 (Jan. 26, 2021 7-8 pm): What Needs To Be Done?

Speaker : Danny Harvey, Geography, U of T

[Register Here](#)

Webinar 2 (Feb. 23, 2021, 7-8:30 pm) Building Coalitions in Support of a Just, Green Transition

Panelists: Sue Ruddick, Geography, U of T and Avi Lewis of Leap Manifesto, and Ian Raney Lopez, U of California, Berkeley)

Webinar 3 (March 2021) The Climate-Peace Nexus

Panelists: TBA

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