



Labour Peace Forum

June 25 & 26, 2006

VANCOUVER BC CANADA

For the most up-to-date program information visit our website at www.vdlc.ca

Organized by the Vancouver & District Labour Council as part of the World **Peace** Forum 2006

The Labour Peace Forum will take place on the University of British Columbia Campus in Vancouver British Columbia, Canada on June 25 and 26, 2006. It is organized as part of World Peace Forum 2006 which runs from June 23 to 28 in Vancouver

Labour Peace Forum Program

Sunday, June 25 | Student Recreation Centre—6000 Student Union Blvd

9:00–noon **Registration** at Gage Residence, 5961 Student Union Boulevard—Everyone must register

1:00 pm Opening Plenary Introductory Remarks

Ken Georgetti *President* Canadian Labour Congress

Jim Sinclair *President* BC Federation of Labour

PART 1 The Economics of War versus the Economics of Peace

Moderator Carol Phillips – *Canadian Auto Workers*

1:30–4:30 **A Globalization, Trade Agreements and "Deep Integration"
—Should Workers Be Concerned?**

Presenter Steve Staples *Polaris Institute*

Responder Seth Klein *Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, BC*

**B The Military Industrial Complex:
Military Spending and its impact on Social priorities
—evaluating the U.S. experience**

Presenter Kent Wong *UCLA Labor Centre*

Responder Judy Darcy *Hospital Employees' Union*

**C Alternatives to Militarism—Building a Peaceful,
Sustainable Economy and Military Conversion**

Presenter TBA

Responder Fred Wilson *Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union*

5:00–6:00 **Reception** Sponsored by the **BC Federation of Labour**—6138 Student Union Blvd

6:00–10:00 **Labour/Peace Cabaret**—Pit Pub, 6138 Student Union Blvd

MC: Bill Saunders *President* Vancouver & District Labour Council

★ Anne Feeney ★ Bob Rosen and the Gram Partisans ★

★ Dunc Shields and Friends—Story tellers ★ Tommy Hawkin ★

★ Ameena Mayer—Performance Poet ★

Monday, June 26 | Student Union Building Ballroom—6138 Student Union Blvd

PART 2 Organizing within the Labour Movement for World Peace

9:00–10:30 **Developing the issue of peace in the trade union movement**

Moderator Patty Ducharme *National Executive VP* Public Service Alliance of Canada

Panel Jinny Sims *President* BC Teachers' Federation

Paul Moist *President* Canadian Union of Public Employees

Ingo Schmidt *The European Experience*

The Japanese Trade Union Movement representative (TBA)

10:30–11:00 **BREAK**

11:00–12:30 **The Experience of U.S. Labour Against the War**

Showing of *Working for Peace in the U.S. Labor Movement* (DVD)

Moderator Dileep Athaide *Secretary-Treasurer* Federation of Post Secondary Educators

Presenters Nancy Romer and Gene Bruskin *Representatives* US Labor Against the War

12:30 - 2:00 **Working Lunch** – KEYNOTE SPEAKER TBA

PART 3 International Perspectives

2:00–3:30 **Trade union's struggle for peace in a war environment**

Moderator George Heyman *President* BC Government & Service Employees' Union

Panel Patricia Buritica *Peace and Justice Committee in Colombia*

Abdullah Muhsin *Int'l Rep.* Iraqi Federation of Workers' Trade Unions

Shaheer Saed *President* Palestinian General Trade Union

3:30 - 4:00 **BREAK**

4:00 - 5:30 **Roundtable—Building an International Peace Movement**

Moderator Deborah Bourque *President* Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Panel Thulas Nxesi *President* Education International

Barb Byers *Vice President* Canadian Labour Congress

Manuel Montero *Dir. of the Americas, Dept. of Foreign Relations* CTC (Cuba)

Closing Remarks by Bill Saunders *President* Vancouver & District Labour Council

Labour Peace Forum Presenters

Barb Byers is Executive Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). Now serving a 2nd three-year term, she was first elected Exec. Vice-President of the CLC in 2002 after more than a decade as President of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour.



Manuel Montero is Director of the Americas, Department of Foreign Relations of the **Cuban Workers Confederation** (CTC), the representative body for all trade unions in Cuba. He is a veteran of the Cuban Literacy Campaign teaching literacy to peasants in the Mountains of Pinar del Río province beginning in 1961. He worked as a factory machinist for 15 years before joining the Foreign Relations Department of the CTC in 1973.

Paul Moist is National President of the **Canadian Union of Public Employees** (CUPE). A strong advocate for quality public services, he has led CUPE's fight against privatization. He serves as Vice-President of the **Canadian Labour Congress**, is a governor of the **Labour College of Canada** and a board member of the **Canadian Labour Market Productivity Centre**.



Jinny Sims is President of the **British Columbia Teachers' Federation** (BCTF). Formerly, she served on the executive of her local and a variety of committees, including **Status of Women** and the **Program Against Racism** and in 1992 she became President of the **Nanaimo District Teachers' Association**. She has served on the provincial executive committee of the BCTF since 1998.



Deborah Bourque is National President of the **Canadian Union of Postal Workers**. She was a founder of the September 11 Peace Coalition, established in 2001 to oppose Canada's participation in military retaliation, and the racist attacks resulting from 9/11



Labour Peace Forum is made possible through the generosity of the following:

CUPE National • PSAC • BCGEU • BCNU • CAW • CEP National • CUPW • CUPE BC • FPSE • HSA • ILWU 500 • CUPE Metro • IUOE 963 • CUPE 402 • MWBIU 1 • BCNU Shaughnessy Hts • HEU • CAW 2200 • IBEW 258 • IAFF 18

Labour Peace Forum Presenters

Nancy Romer is Professor of Psychology at **Brooklyn College, NYU**, Officer of the **Professional Staff Congress-CUNY (PSC)**, **American Federation of Teachers local 2334** and chair of the PSC's **Peace and Justice Committee**. She represents the PSC on the national steering committee of **US Labor Against the War (USLAW)** and represents USLAW on the national steering committee of **United for Peace and Justice**. She is co-convenor of (East Coast) **Educators to Stop the War**.



Steven Staples is Director of Security Programs for the **Polaris Institute** in Ottawa, which is widely credited with playing a key role in preventing the Canadian government from joining the U.S. missile defence program in 2005. He is a frequent contributor to journals, magazines, and conferences, and is often called upon to comment on defence and public policy-related issues by the national and international news media.



Kent Wong is Director of the Centre for **Labour Research and Education** at **UCLA**. Founding President of the **Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance** (first national organization of Asian union members and workers). He regularly addresses labour, community, civil rights, university and student conferences across the US and is involved in developing international labour solidarity in the Pacific Rim.



Shaher Saed is General Secretary of the **Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions**. Brother Saed brings to the Labour Peace Forum an experience that North American trade unionists are fortunate never to have known—that of a trade union struggle for peace in a war zone. His experience of struggle in a war zone has been a daily reality for all of his working life.



[See inside for more participants and the complete program for the two-day Labour Peace Forum.]



Labour Peace Forum Registration

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

FAX _____

Registration Fee: \$50* per day or \$30* per day for student & fixed/low income

* These fees allow full access to the entire World Peace Forum for the full day

Day 1 \$ _____

Day 2 \$ _____

+GST (7%) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Payable with cash or by cheque or money order if mailed to:

World Peace Forum 2006
550 West 6th Avenue, Suite 420
Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 1A1

Payable by credit card online at:
www.worldpeaceforum.ca

WPF Tel: 604 687 3223

WPF Fax: 604 687 3277

Registration venue Walter Gage Residence, 5961 Student Union Blvd.
 See www.vdlc.ca for directions

Registration opens at 8:00am every day of the Conference

★ **Everyone must register** ★

V DLC Tel: 604 254 0703 • Fax: 604 254 0701
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UNIVERSITY OF BC CAMPUS
 VANCOUVER BC CANADA



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Labour Peace Forum Presenters

Thulas Nxesi is the current President of **Education International (EI)** and the General Secretary of the **South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU)**. A founder member of the **National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA)** in 1985, he became its national Gen. Secretary in 1988. He was Asst. Gen. Secretary of SADTU from 1990 to 1995, and has been its Gen. Secretary since 1995. In 2004, he was elected President of EI at its World Congress in Porto Alegre, Brazil.



Ingo Schmidt is an economist at **UNBC** in Prince George. Formerly a staff economist with the German union, **IG Metall**, he is a member of the **European Working Group for Alternative Economic Policies** and co-editor of German labour journal, *Goettinger Betriebsexpress*. He has written a book on the history of trade unions and numerous articles on the European Social Model.



Abdullah Muhsin is International Representative of the **Iraqi Workers' Federation (IWF)**, formerly IFTU. He taught Trade Union Studies at University of London Metropolitan, Dept. of Applied Science and has published a book on assassinated IFTU activist, Hadi Saleh. His articles have appeared in the *Guardian*, *Tribune*, and *International Union Rights*.



Patricia Buritica has been a Commissioner representing Civil Society on the **Reparations and Reconciliation Commission (CNRR)** based in Colombia since 2004. Since 1977 she has actively worked to protect and promote workers rights within the trade union movement. On the CNRR she has been working on integrating women victims of the civil war into the decision making processes relating to reconciliation and the reconstruction of the social networks of Colombia. In 2005 she was nominated for the Peace Nobel Prize, in recognition of the exemplary work she has done, by the Swiss project *1000 women one Nobel Prize*.



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