

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2017

### Provincial Peace and Disarmament Summit to be held at University of Victoria on May 12 and 13

Vancouver Island Peace and Disarmament Network hosts inaugural conference to promote a culture of peace

---

(Victoria/WS'ANEC' territory) – A newly established community organization, the Vancouver Island Peace and Disarmament Network (VIPDN), is hosting an inaugural provincial summit at the University of Victoria next week. The Provincial Peace and Disarmament Summit is free and open to the public and is co-sponsored by the UVic's Centre for Global Studies and the Social Environmental Alliance.

The summit will open with a premiere screening of the documentary entitled "A Bold Peace" on Friday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Room C118 of the David Strong Building at the University of Victoria. The award-winning new film is an inspiring account of Costa Rica's path of peacebuilding and demilitarization after its civil war in 1948.

On Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., there will be a full day of speakers, panels and workshops on various topics including Canadian foreign policy, nuclear disarmament, anti-war activism, and peace art and education. The key note speaker is Jamie Swift, co-author of the new book *The Vimy Trap, or, How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Great War*, which has been recently short-listed for the Sir John A. Macdonald Prize in Canadian history and the prestigious Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's battle at Vimy Ridge and Swift will critically examine Canada's role in the First World War.

Other featured speakers include former Canadian seaman Nicola Peffers, author of *Refuge in the Black Deck*, who will talk about military sexual violence and US Army veteran Bill Geimer, author of *Canada: The Case for Staying Out of Other People's Wars*, who will discuss Canadian military history.

"The purpose of our summit is to share information and to inspire action for a culture of peace and policies for disarmament in our province and in our country," said Dr. David Monk, summit organizer and coordinator of the Vancouver Island Peace and Disarmament Network.

VIPDN was founded last spring after a visit to Victoria by a 94-year old peace activist Murray Thompson, a resident of Ottawa and a recipient of the Pearson Medal of Peace and the Order of Canada. Thompson came to the University of Victoria last May to launch his new book, *Minutes to Midnight: Why More Than 800 Order of Canada Recipients Call for Nuclear Disarmament*. The day after his talk, Thompson organized a strategy meeting on campus to mobilize people in Victoria for nuclear disarmament.

"Murray's infectious enthusiasm and dedication to peace and social justice inspired us and we have been meeting monthly ever since," explained Dr. Budd Hall, Professor of Community Development in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria and the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. Hall convened the first meeting of VIPDN last May.

The network's monthly meetings are open to the public and welcome new members. Over the past year, VIPDN has been busy with many events. It has held public film screenings and talks to raise awareness about the continuing threat of nuclear weapons, to advance disarmament, to promote nonviolent solutions to the international conflict and to build a culture of peace.

"We are concerned that Canada is not participating in the United Nations' negotiations that are taking place right now for a new treaty that will ban nuclear weapons. We want to push our country to take leadership in diplomacy and disarmament," said summit organizer and VIPDN member, Tamara Lorincz.

The network is also planning a Ban the Bomb rally at the Legislature on Saturday, June 17 in conjunction with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's call for a global day of action and is organizing a lantern ceremony for nuclear disarmament on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Wednesday, August 9 at Gorge Waterway Park in Esquimalt. For more information about the Vancouver Island Peace and Disarmament Network and its upcoming events and to register for the summit, visit [www.vipdn.org](http://www.vipdn.org).

*For broadcast:*

The University of Victoria is hosting the first Provincial Peace and Disarmament Summit on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13. It is a free, public event. The summit will open on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> with a premiere screening of the documentary entitled "A Bold Peace" at 7:00 p.m. in Room C118 of the David Strong Building. On Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a full day of speakers, panels and workshops on various topics including Canadian foreign policy, nuclear disarmament, peace art and peace education from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The summit is organized by the Vancouver Island Peace and Disarmament Network and co-sponsored by the UVic Centre for Global Studies and the Social Environmental Alliance. To register for the summit and for more information, visit [www.vipdn.org](http://www.vipdn.org).

*For more information and for interviews, please contact:*

**Dr. Budd Hall**, Co-founding Member of VIPDN, Professor of Community Development at the University of Victoria and UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility, Email: [bhall@uvic.ca](mailto:bhall@uvic.ca) / Phone: 250-721-8062

**Tamara Lorincz**, Co-founding Member of VIPDN, Member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Email: [tlorincz@dal.ca](mailto:tlorincz@dal.ca) / Phone: 778-350-2188

**David Monk**, Coordinator and Co-founding Member of VIPDN, PhD graduate, University of Victoria, Email: [capelton15@gmail.com](mailto:capelton15@gmail.com) / Phone: 250-580-7716.

**Jamie Swift**, Author of *The Vimy Trap*, Co-Founder of PeaceQuest, Email: [jswift6@sympatico.ca](mailto:jswift6@sympatico.ca) / Phone: 613-542-8292