

THE TURNING TIDE, SPRING 2021

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War *Canada*

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IPPNW Canada celebrates the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons January 21, 2021.



Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, Magritte Gordaneer and Lia Holla. Mark Gordaneer. 2021.



Dr. Jonathan Down. Mark Gordaneer. 2021.

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IPPNW Canada

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IPPNW Canada President's Letter March 1, 2021

Dr. Vinay Jindal, MD, Acting President



Portrait of Dr. Vinay Jindal, MD. Michael Barker. 2019.

Welcome to the second issue of IPPNWC's "The Turning Tide", a medical journal addressing peace, the environment, and social justice from a health perspective. Many thanks to Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford who pours her heart and soul into every issue to ensure each issue is interesting and informative.

As IPPNWC started its first year, we were forced online as we witnessed the devastation of COVID-19 across Canada and around the world, both personally and professionally. As we adjusted to the grave realities of the pandemic, a fear ran through us—a nuclear war would be all this and so much more.

COVID-19 revealed how integrated we are globally and as the virus spread there were some inspiring examples of international cooperation. However, the patchwork and varied responses to the pandemic exposed gaps in emergency preparedness—illustrating how ill-prepared we are to deal with the twin existential threats that, in 2019, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists coined "the new abnormal" nuclear weapons and climate change.

Activist across the country know that nuclear weapons were never normal and with nuclear disarmament it is never business as usual.

As we learned from the incredible global partners of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, there is strength in diversity, creativity, and cooperation. IPPNWC values the networks and coalitions creating a strong, unified voice for Canada to accede to the TPNW and become an international leader on nuclear disarmament. With the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the tide has turned. The impossible is now possible. We need Canada to be there; the world is waiting on us.

Join us on this incredible journey—it is unpredictable and exciting (and sometimes heartbreaking) but until the world is free of nuclear weapons, it will never be business as usual. Bienvenue au deuxième numéro de l'IPPNWC "The Turning Tide", une revue médicale qui se penche sur la paix, l'environnement et la justice sociale d'un point de vue de la santé. Un grand merci à Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford qui, à chaque numéro, se dévoue coeur et âme afin de s'assurer que chaque numéro soit intéressant et instructif.

Au même moment que l'IPPNWC entamait sa première année, nous avons été forcés d'aller en ligne et sommes devenus témoins, de façon personnelle et professionnelle, des effets dévastateurs du Covid-19 à travers le Canada ainsi que dans le monde entier. Au fur et à mesure que nous nous sommes adaptés aux graves réalités de la pandémie, une peur s'est installée : une guerre nucléaire pourrait être tout à fait semblable et même pire!

COVID-19 a révélé à quel point nous sommes devenus interrelliés. Au fur et à mesure que le virus s'est propagé, nous sommes devenus témoins d'exemples inspirants de coopération internationale. Cependant, les réponses variées mises en place pour combattre la pandémie ont révélé des lacunes dans le domaine de la préparation pour des situations urgentes. Ce manque de préparation a, par le fait même, démontré à quel point nous sommes mal préparés à faire face aux deux grandes menaces existentielles: les armes nucléaires et le changement climatique. On citait, dans le "Bulletin of Atomic Scientists" de 2019 que ces deux menaces étaient devenues notre "new abnormal".

Les activistes à travers le pays reconnaissent que les armes nucléaires n'ont jamais été normales et qu'avec le désarmement nucléaire on ne peut plus fermer les yeux sur cette réalité.

Nous avons appris par le biais d'incroyables partenaires mondiaux de la Campagne Internationale pour l'Abolition des Armes Nucléaires, que la force se retrouve dans la diversité, la créativité et la coopération.

L'IPPNWC apprécie les réseaux et les coalitions qui travaillent à créer une voix forte et unifiée dans le but que le Canada adhère au TPNW et devienne, un chef de file internationale en matière de désarmement nucléaire. Le vent a tourné avec l'entrée en vigueur du Traité sur l'interdiction des armes nucléaires. L'impossible est désormais possible. Nous avons besoin de la présence du Canada; le monde nous attend.

Je vous invite à vous joindre à cette incroyable aventure, à la fois imprévisible et excitante (et possiblement déchirante). Tant et aussi longtemps qu'il existera des armes nucléaires sur la terre, nous ne pourrons pas retourner à une vie normale, sans inquiétude.

Vinay Jindal, MD Acting-president, IPPNWC Vinay Jindal, MD Acting-president, IPPNWC

Remembering Dr. Bernard Lown

Mary-Wynne Ashford Co-President of IPPNW 1998-2002

IPPNWC Mourns the Passing of Dr. Bernard Lown, February 16th, 2021.



Bernard Lown and Eugene Chazov. IPPNW Photo. Oslo. 1985.

"If we are to prevail, we must never delegate in the presence of challenge, and never whisper in the presence of wrong" -Dr. Bernard Lown at the IPPNW Congress in Montreal, 1998

The passing of Bernard Lown is an immeasurable loss for medicine and for the world. He was a brilliant cardiologist who demanded that doctors restore the art of healing in their work. He invented the cardiac defibrillator, but warned against making medicine so technical the patient would be lost in the relationship. His practice drew patients from around the world, including King Hussein of Jordan.

In the 1960's, he ignored the emerging Cold War and pursued collaborative research on sudden cardiac death in men under forty with his Soviet colleague, Eugene Chazov.

In the late 1970's he told Chazov that the greatest threat to public health in the world was not sudden cardiac death, but the threat of nuclear war.

Chazov agreed and in 1980, the two founded the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. At the peak of the Cold War, when there were 70,000 nuclear weapons, the idea of doctors working together across the Iron Curtain was shocking and controversial.

Lown was a brilliant speaker and writer who inspired hundreds of thousands of doctors to join in the movement for nuclear disarmament. Meetings of Lown and Chazov with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev influenced the Soviet leader to press for nuclear disarmament in his meetings with US President Ronald Reagan.

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Lown, Chazov and IPPNW in 1985, at a time when public opinion regarded recognition of Soviet/ American cooperation with deep scepticism.

Here is an account of the dramatic events at the press conference in Oslo:

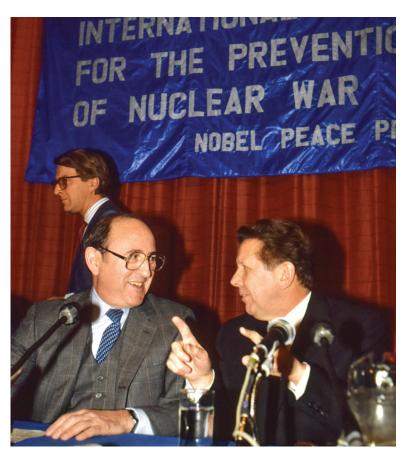
"10 AM: Members of IPPNW's Executive Committee meet the international press at a press conference. Most questions are more focused on Andrei Sakharov than on IPPNW. The room is stuffy, the atmosphere tense. Suddenly a journalist slumps over in his chair and begins convulsing – the victim of a sudden cardiac arrest. An international team of IPPNW physicians rushes to his aid as the press conference dissolves into a battle for the life of Lev Novikov, a cameraman for Soviet television. When Novikov is taken to an ambulance it is thought that the efforts to save him have failed. Later, word comes from Oslo's Rikshospitalet that Novikov is alive but in critical condition. He eventually recovers."

When the press conference resumed Dr. Lown had this to say:

"We have just witnessed what doctoring is about. When faced with a dire emergency of sudden cardiac arrest, doctors do not inquire whether the patient was a good person or a criminal. We do not delay treatment to learn the politics or character of the victim. We respond not as ideologues, nor as Russians nor Americans, but as doctors. The only thing that matters is saving a human life. We work with colleagues, whatever their political persuasion, whether capitalist or Communist. This very culture permeates IPPNW. The world is threatened with sudden nuclear death. We work with doctors whatever their political convictions to save our endangered home. You have just witnessed IPPNW in action."

Bernard Lown's commitment to serving humanity continued through his life and is expressed in his books. "The Lost Art of Healing" should be a gift to every medical graduate today.

I was privileged to serve on the IPPNW Council and work with Dr.Lown from 1985 and watch his tireless energy and creative drive inspire IPPNW to take on major international projects. He was a demanding leader who expected the highest level of scientific integrity and dedication from all who worked with him. Even at times when he was impatient that we weren't doing enough, he was always gracious and respectful. My life was enriched by knowing him, and history was changed because he expanded his commitment to healing until it included the whole world.



Bernard Lown and Eugene Chazov. IPPNW Photo. Oslo. 1985.



Bernard Lown and Eugene Chazov providing medical aid to reporter. IPPNW Photo. Oslo. 1985.

IPPNW Canada Annual Report 2021

IPPNWC came into existence on 3 February 2020, built upon the solid charitable foundation of Canadian Physicians for Research and Education in Peace (CPREP) and 40 years of peace advocacy from organizations that include Physicians for Social Responsibility (Canada), Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and Physicians for Global Survival (PGS).

With new CRA guidance to charities, CPREP was able to integrate the advocacy of PGS in becoming IPPNWC. On 13 November 2020, the CRA approved IPPNWC's amended Statement of Purposes, giving IPPNWC a broader mandate to address peace in the larger context of global health and sustainability.

Through the challenges of COVID-19, IPPNWC remained active, shifting online when possible:

- Held monthly Active Members meetings
- Mentored medical students & hosted webinars

- Published "The Turning Tide" journal
- Developed an IPPNWC student movement
 Launched the new ippnwcanada.ca website
- Collaborated on public peace eventsPlanned 2021 TPNW Entry into Force actions
- Initiated an online TPNW e-petition

In 2021, IPPNWC will continue to build on the foundation set in 2020, work on developing projects that reflect our expanded mandate and continue outreach to encourage Canada to accede to the TPNW.

The first Annual General Meeting of IPPNWC was held on Zoom, 26 April 2020.

New Board of Directors elected:

President:	Dr. Jonathan Down	At Large Directors: Maureen Brouwer, Glen Brouwer, Dr. Nancy
Treasurer:	Dr. Charles King	Covington, Dr. Erica Frank, Lia Holla, Dr. Tim Takaro
Secretary:	Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford	Retiring Board Members: Dr. Neil Arya, Dr. Barbara Birkett, Dr.
Past president:	Dr. Vinay Jindal	Richard Denton, Dr. Michael Dworkind & Dr. Jeannie Rosenberg.

Since the 1st AGM, Mr. Brouwer resigned for personal reasons and Dr. Denton rejoined the Board as our IPPNW Councillor. Lia Holla resigned in order to take on the Executive Director (ED) role. As the year closed, Dr. Down required a 6-month personal leave and Dr. Jindal took on the role of IPPNWC Acting-president.

ED Christa Brenan was instrumental in the dissolution of PGS and the transition of CPREP to IPPNWC. When Ms. Brenan's term ended in May 2020, Lia Holla was hired as the new ED, Magritte Gordaneer, as program assistant, and Sam Barnett, as graphic designer. Mr. Barnett also designed the IPPNWC website with Nathalie Down. Many thanks to these young professionals who are helping IPPNWC reach out to the public in new and innovative ways.

We appreciate the reliable and conscientious efforts of our accountant Catharine Johannson, bookkeeper Shane Sadorski, and technical support person, Steve Bainton of Xinc IT. Without permanent office staff in Ottawa, IPPNWC is evaluating its archives and the need for a physical office in Ottawa. Special appreciation to Ernest G. Tannis & his legal team for their expertise in guiding the creation of IPPNWC, with a significant portion of hours performed as pro bono time.

IPPNWC decided not to formally fundraise because of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing the pressures on contributors and the difficult climate for fundraising. However, the financial situation remains healthy with the sole source of income the generosity and commitment of individual donors.

Donations:	\$51,504.51
PGS Dissolution:	\$25,018.12
Total Expenses:	\$75,197.31
Net Income:	\$1325.32
Total Assets as of December 31, 2020:	\$135,086.86

Your donations are valued and respected; funds allow the IPPNWC Board to effectively represent the membership through programming but do not contribute to Board travel or expenses.

As IPPNWC develops and defines its role in Canada's peace community we thank you for your patience and continued support- together we will achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, a world that is peaceful, environmentally sound and socially just.

Rejoining IPPNW Canada

Henry Shibata, MD

Dr. Henry Shibata is a distinguished Surgical Oncologist who practiced in Montreal, and whose service to Japan, particularly to Hiroshima survivors (hibakusha), was recognized when he and Setsuko Thurlow were the only Canadians invited to attend the 2019 enthronement of the Japanese Emperor.



Portrait of Henry Shibata, MD. Ottawa Citizen. 2019.

Doubtlessly, successive atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki hastened the end of World War II. However, they caused the immediate deaths of thousands of civilians and later deaths from radiation-induced complications. They spawned physical and mental suffering for many survivors (hibakushas) that persists to this day. 2020 marks the infamous 75th Anniversaries of those two days!

After graduation, I worked (1956-57) at the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC), a joint US-Japan Research Project investigating long-term after-effects.

Studies of survivors revealed increases in fatal leukemias and solid cancers. Genetic changes leading to malformations were identified and are still being monitored in descendants by the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF). Psychologically, people are still fearful of marrying survivors because of such possibilities!

While teaching at the Nagarekawa Church English School, I learned of the "Hiroshima Maidens".... girls disfigured by facial radiation burns, some of whom were taken to the USA for Cosmetic Surgery by Reverend Kiyoshi Tanimoto. Great humanitarian!

For over 40 years, on August 6th at the Hiroshima Peace Day Ceremony in the Japanese Botanical Garden in Montreal, I read the English translation of the "No More Hiroshimas" Peace Messages sent by successive Mayors of Hiroshima. Mayors of hundreds of cities worldwide are committed participants of this Movement. It is a constant reminder....Hiroshima Memorial Day Ceremony.

In 1998 as a Committee member under Mayor Pierre Bourque, we succeeded in making Hiroshima and Montreal Sister Cities, cementing stronger ties. I persuaded the Deans of McGill Faculty of Medicine and my alma mater, Hiroshima Medical School to sign an Exchange Agreement for medical students and researchers. Visiting Montreal, the late Dr. Kenjiro Yokoro, my senior in Medical School and staunch supporter of the IPPNW, encouraged me to join, citing my strong ties to Hiroshima, and for my wife who witnessed the huge atomic detonation from afar. I agreed!

Even with the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IPPNW in 1985 and with zero signs of abolition of nuclear weapons by the nine nuclear nations thereafter, I let my membership lapse.

In 2017, the UN finally adopted "The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons". This ban was ratified by many nations but not by Japan, the only victimized Country, nor Canada, nor any of the nuclear nations. Why not?

Recently President Trump tweeted he would "Build more powerful nuclear bombs to keep America great". USA and Russia control more than 90% of the total weapons. In 2019, ICAN estimated 80 billion dollars will be spent just for maintenance by all the nuclear nations, and a staggering \$35 billion by the U.S. alone. Clearly, a huge waste of taxpayers' money required for more pressing health, social and educational needs as elucidated by recent worldwide catastrophic events. A beacon of hope was former President Obama calling for international cooperation to dismantle nuclear bombs. I was impressed by his bold but unfulfilled gesture.

With ICAN awarded the Nobel Prize in 2017 and my renewed friendship with Setsuko Thurlow in 2019, I realized many individuals are still striving to save our amazing planet from total destruction!

I decided to rejoin!

Petition #3028 to the Government of Canada



Nancy Covington and Kathrin Winkler celebrating. Sarah Morgan. 2021.

This electronic petition to the Government of Canada was initiated by Dr. Nancy Covington. It garnered 1,954 signatures and was presented to the House of Commons by MP Elizabeth May on February 16th, 2021. The Government is now required to write a formal response, which must happen within 45 days of its presentation.

Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

- A nuclear weapons detonation could result in a humanitarian catastrophe so immense that it is impossible to comprehend.
 The direct effects would be far worse than any pandemic as there is no known meaningful medical response. A nuclear winter could be triggered causing widespread famine throughout the world;
- A recent surge in modernization of nuclear weapons means the risk of an accidental or intentional nuclear catastrophe has increased markedly since the Cold War era;
- The money and resources spent on nuclear weapons could be redirected to address the unsolved issues facing humankind, such as climate change, poverty or pandemics;
- Nuclear weapons, designed to kill vast numbers of people indiscriminately, have always been immoral. On January 22, 2021
 nuclear weapons will also become illegal under international law for countries that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition
 of Nuclear Weapons, a Treaty whose text has been endorsed by 122 nations;
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the best current option for nuclear weapons disarmament; and
- This Treaty is considered robust in terms of its provisions for implementing the process of abolishing nuclear weapons and is therefore complementary to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is a major achievement of international diplomacy;

We, the undersigned, Citizens of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to accede to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons thereby advancing Canada's longstanding commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

Montreal Student's Successful Campaign

Our IPPNWC Student Group, and Students for Peace and Disarmament worked successfully with the McGill Student Society to develop policies to oppose Harmful Military Technology and to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The policies advocate allocating resources to peace activism and just transition towards disarmament, and they mandate the McGill Student Union to lobby other student unions around Canada to adopt similar positions and policies on nuclear weapons and harmful military technology. Students involved were: Vice-President External, Ayo Ogunremi, Anika Hundal, Maya Garfinkel and IPPNWC Executive Director, Lia Holla. Featured Speakers on IPPNWC Monthly Meetings



Portrait of Ashton Janvier. Mathieu Buzzetti. 2017.

Portrait of Kasha Sequoia. The Sunrise Storyteller. 2017.

Portrait of Dr. Togzhan Kassenova.

Ashton Janvier is a Dene Grade six teacher in Treaty 10 Territory. He gave a gripping report to our Monthly Meeting for Active members and Observers of the health consequences of uranium mining on his community. He showed two short documentary films he made of the circumstances in his area.

The Wapikoni Film Company has given permission for us to link to his two films: *Nuhe Nenë Boghílníh (Protecting Our Homeland)* [http://www.wapikoni.ca/movies/nuhe-nene-boghilnihprotecting-our-homeland] and *Media Resistance*: *Land & Water* [http://www.wapikoni.ca/movies/mediaresistance-land-water]

Kasha Sequoia, aka The Sunrise Storyteller, a young filmmaker/photographer sets out on her 16th birthday on an ambitious mission to travel the world for six months for the purpose of documenting stories of hope, resilience and empowered leadership. See the trailer for her movie, which has won 29 awards, [https:// thesunrisestoryteller.com/].

She spoke about her next feature documentary, which will be called "1.5 Degrees of Peace". The film is an urgent yet uplifting call to action about the current looming existential threats facing our planet's survival.

Dr. Togzhan Kassenova spoke to us from Kazakhstan about the enduring health consequences of Soviet nuclear weapons testing in Kazakhstan. You can view the recording of her moving talk on our website and her TEDx talk, *Seeking Truth: Kazakhstan's Fight Against Nuclear Testing* on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DN7N_CBJtKU].

Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, and the late Drs. Ed Crispin and Alex Bryans went to Kazakhstan in 1991 to the huge Nevada/Semipalatinsk Movement protest that led to the Soviets stopping their nuclear tests.

Medical Student Publications Excerpts

A model for helping refugees, Sabrina Yu

Last year, as a medical student at UBC and future physician, Sabrina Yu embarked on a research project to better understand the resettlement challenges that refugees have when coming to Vancouver Island, and the issues that physicians face in meeting refugee health needs. Her research led her to the Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees and its founder Adrienne Carter.

Read the full article [https://www.focusonvictoria.ca/ reporting/24/].

COVID-19 and climate change: managing existential anxiety in your students, *Ruvini* Amarasakara

Medical Student, Ruvini Amarasekera, was in our mentorship program, researching the challenges facing teachers during this time when students are anxious about climate change and the future. At the end of her term, she wrote "COVID-19 and climate change: Managing existential anxiety in your students" which was featured in Teacher Magazine.

Read full article [https://www.ippnwcanada.ca/s/ Teacher-Magazine-Article.pdf].

Getting Involved With IPPNW Canada

Invitation to become an Active Member

If you are interested in working with us on a campaign in your local area or nationally, you might be interested in joining our monthly Zoom call first as an observer. We discuss issues, share projects we are working on, and support each other in our work. There is no fee. The zoom call is on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM PDT, please send an email to <u>admin@ippnwcanada.</u> <u>ca</u> indicating if you wish to be an observer or an Active Member. We ask Active Members to submit a CV and Application Form.

Medical Student Mentorship

If you are in a program that allows time to do independent research and you are interested in peace, environment and health, we have physicians who are willing to mentor you and assist you to write for publication.

What You Can Do for Peace

<u>Attend</u> or <u>organize</u> a meeting about how to reduce racism and prejudice in your community.

<u>Write</u> letters, poetry, music for your community to build unity and justice.

<u>Write</u> a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, House of Commons, Ottawa KII 0A9, to ask him to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Use the wording of the petition for information in your letter.

<u>Meet</u> with your municipal council to ask them to join the ICAN Cities Appeal on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

IPPNW Canada Organizational Updates

Board of Directors 2020–2021

Dr. Vinay Jindal, Acting president

- Dr. Jonathan Down, *President on leave* Dr. Charles King, *Treasurer*
- Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, Secretary
- Dr. Richard Denton, IPPNW Councilor
- Dr. Nancy Covington
- Dr. Erica Frank
- Dr. Tim Takaro
- Maureen Brouwer

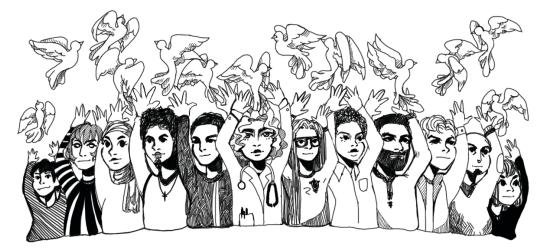
Staff:

Lia Holla, Executive Coordinator Magritte Gordaneer, Program Director Sam Barnett, Layout and Design

Purposes of IPPNW Canada are to Teach, Research and Address:

The health consequences of violence, armed conflict and weapons of mass destruction. The health consequences associated with energy resources and armed conflict. Methods of nonviolent conflict resolution. The promotion of social justice in a sustainable world.

IPPNW Canada Student group



Rania Abdulaziz (@raphayells). 2020.

IPPNWC's Student initiative has grown into a flourishing network of youth across North America engaged in nuclear disarmament activism. IPPNWC Students have regular monthly meetings where they've welcomed speakers such as Dr. Tim Takaro and discussed the impact of intersectional activism, specifically involving environmental and nuclear issues. The student network is working towards creating a cross-Canada nuclear disarmament campaign involving student union support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. To join or learn more about IPPNWC Students contact admin@ ippnwcanada.ca

IPPNWC has been working with medical students to develop projects and create mentoring relationships. Medical students are encouraged to apply to this program, in addition to becoming involved in our student network. For more information please email admin@ippnwcanada.ca

Support IPPNWC

There are several ways to financially support the actions of IPPNWC: You can donate through our website which takes you directly to our Canada Helps account; IPPNWC gratefully accepts bequests and legacy giving; or you can fill out this form to donate directly. IPPNWC appreciates our committed and generous donors.

Name Address
Phone Email
Cheque
I am enclosing a cheque for: <u>\$</u>
Credit Card
I am authorizing the DONE-OFF DONTHLY charge on my credit card of: <u>\$</u>
Cardholder Name Cardholder Postal Code
Card Type 🛛 VISA 🗖 MASTERCARD Card Number
Expiry Date/ CVC
If you chose to make a recurring donation, you may withdraw at any time by notifying us at 30 Cleary Ave, Ottawa, ON K2A 4A1, admin@ippnwcanada.ca or +1 (613) 233-1982. Charitable tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10. Charitable registration #838285641 RC0001



Donate to IPPNW Canada

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