



Media Release: Edmonton's first annual Peace Fest launches with events across the city

For Immediate Release

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EDMONTON, AB – Edmontonians of all backgrounds are joining together to reflect on and celebrate peace during the inaugural YEG Peace Fest, with events taking place across the city until October 2, 2015.

Presented by the Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace, the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, along with other members of Edmonton's peace community, YEG Peace Fest was launched on the 70th annual United Nations International Day of Peace on Monday, September 21 with a flag-raising at Edmonton's City Hall. Aiming to foster a city-wide promotion of peace, unity and human rights, the festival also commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and the International Day of Non-Violence, and provides an opportunity to think critically about what peace means at home and abroad and to work together in fostering inclusive communities.

Upcoming highlights include workshops presented by the Alternatives to Violence Project, Alberta at MacEwan University on conflict transformation, peace-themed services at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, a guided "World Peace Meditation" hosted by the Canadian Engaged Buddhism Association, tours of the Bissell Centre in Edmonton's inner city with a discussion on housing as a human right, and a presentation on pluralism and ending Islamophobia by Professor John Esposito, sponsored by the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities.

Talks will also take place at the University of Alberta, including an international conference on "Middle East Exceptionalism" and democratic movements after the Arab Spring; a talk about the global war on terror, militarism and migrancy; and a discussion on the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals sponsored by the Global Education Program that will feature Alberta Council for Global Cooperation Executive Director Heather McPherson among the panelists.

"Particularly during this important week, when the United Nations is bringing together world leaders to officially adopt the new Sustainable Development Goals addressing human rights and inequality, the launch of Edmonton's first Peace Festival is needed and very timely," said McPherson. "The value we place on peace as a society is vitally important, now more than ever."

For a list of Peace Festival events go to: <http://re1840.wix.com/yegpeacefest#!events/c8f4>

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development. ACGC works towards ending poverty and achieving a peaceful and healthy world, with dignity and full participation for all. The

Council, one of eight provincial and regional councils across Canada, has a mandate to promote and mobilize greater Albertan participation in international development. See www.acgc.ca

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