



Toronto's Mayor for Peace

*August 5, 2014*

*For Immediate Release:*

The 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be marked in Toronto in the midst of a municipal election. Toronto, a member of Mayors for Peace since 1983, is part of a global movement of solidarity between cities working to achieve nuclear abolition. 2014 Toronto Mayoral candidates were given the question: **As future Mayor of Toronto, and thus responsible for its citizens, and as a member of Mayors for Peace, what steps would you take to work toward eliminating nuclear weapons?**

Overwhelmingly, respondents denounced nuclear weapons and confirmed their attendance at the Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration on August 6<sup>th</sup> at Nathan Phillips Square, starting at 6:45 p.m.

“As a member of Mayors for Peace, Olivia will continue active participation in (Mayor for Peace) including promoting 2020 Vision”, according to the **Olivia Chow** Campaign, in reference to the Mayors for Peace campaign to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

**John Tory** wrote, “As Mayor of Toronto, I would encourage our City’s relationship with Mayors for Peace. I believe in their visions and efforts that uniquely allow cities from all over the world to stand together against nuclear proliferation.”

Mayor **Rob Ford**, although not providing a response to the specific question on Mayors for Peace, has provided a strong and current statement against nuclear weapons as part of the City of Toronto’s Hiroshima Day Proclamation that will be revealed on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

The campaigns of **Karen Stintz** and **David Soknacki** responded to the question with silence.

Toronto’s Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration ceremony on August 6, 2014, “From Despair to Hope: Preventing Catastrophic Harm” at Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall. The commemoration starts at 6.45 p.m.

The above events are free and open to the public.

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**Organizing Member Groups:** Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Physicians for Global Survival, Science for Peace, Toronto Area Interfaith Council, Toronto Article 9, Visit online for full supporter list including the Canadian Pugwash Group