

# Annual Report: Canadian Friends of Peace Now

Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN) is a sister organization of Peace Now (שלום עכשיו/Shalom Achshav), Israel's preeminent peace movement. We support the agenda of Peace Now in Israel, and raise awareness in Canada of the need for a viable and durable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. CFPN is dedicated to promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace on the basis of the two-state solution.

With branches in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, and supporters throughout Canada, CFPN sponsors public talks and webinars, engages in advocacy, publishes press releases and newsletters and partners with other progressive Zionist organizations on Israeli-Palestinian peace issues.

A registered Canadian charity, CFPN raises funds to support its activities in Canada and Peace Now's educational programs in Israel.

## Peace Now (שלום עכשיו)

Peace Now became a dominant force in Israel's political scene in 1978, when the peace talks between Israel and Egypt appeared to be on the verge of failure. In order to rescue the peace talks, 348 combat soldiers and officers signed the 'Officers' Letter' – an open letter to Prime Minister Menachem Begin, calling for him to seize the window of opportunity and ensure a lasting peace. Tens of thousands of Israelis supported the letter, and the Peace Now movement was born.

Since 1978, Peace Now has been the leading Israeli organization calling for peace between Israel and its neighbours and particularly for a viable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its key message is: two states for two peoples – Israel and Palestine. Its activities include advocacy, public campaigns, education, and monitoring and protesting West Bank settlement expansion. Its supporters abroad include Canadian Friends of Peace Now, Americans for Peace Now, Peace Now UK, La Paix maintenant – France, Paz Ahora-Argentina and Paz Agora-Brazil.

## Mission

Canadian Friends of Peace Now works to promote peace, democracy and security for Israel. We believe that an equitable, negotiated two-state solution is the only way to ensure Israel's long-term security and put an end to the conflict between Israel and its Palestinian neighbours. We also believe that the best strategy for creating a two-state solution is for Israel to trade land for genuine peace.

## Where We Stand

- We support the values on which the state of Israel was created, as enshrined in its Declaration of Independence:

*"The State of Israel...will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace ...; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."*

- We are for Israel's security, democracy and Jewish character and its right to exist as a Jewish homeland within internationally recognized borders.
- We also support the creation of a viable Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, living in peace and security alongside Israel.
- We vigorously oppose the creation and expansion of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Settlements are an impediment to peace, undermining the two-state solution and Israel's long-term security. The settlements force Israel to rule over a large, disenfranchised Palestinian population, contrary to the state's core democratic values and international law.
- We recognize that neither Israelis nor Palestinians will give up their desire for self-determination in a state of their own – and neither should be expected to do so. Therefore, we assert that both Israelis and Palestinians will have to make painful compromises and give up maximal demands. The two states will have to be based on the 1967 Green Line, with any changes achieved through mutually agreed-upon land swaps.
- We acknowledge that these painful compromises will require: 1) that an answer to the Palestinian refugee issue will have to be found largely outside the borders of the State of Israel; and 2) that Jerusalem would have to be the capital for both states, on the basis of demographic breakdowns, with a special status for the Old City.
- We believe both sides share blame for the current stalemate. Palestinians have rejected opportunities for a reasonable compromise (particularly during negotiations in 2000 and 2008). Israel has laid roadblocks to peace through its settlement program and, in recent years, opposition to the two-state solution by successive right-wing governments. We call for brave leadership from both sides.

- We warn that Israeli political leaders who endorse unilateral annexation over portions of the occupied West Bank are proposing a flagrant violation of international law, the trampling of the rights of Palestinians and the gross endangerment of Israel's future as a secure, democratic homeland of the Jewish people.
- We believe that the only alternative to the two-state solution is prolonged violence and bloodshed.

## **Canadian Activities**

Canadian Friends of Peace Now promotes understanding of Israeli-Palestinian peace issues among Canadians, including Canada's Jewish communities. Our educational activities, such as speaker events and webinars, focus on the importance of achieving a negotiated two-state solution for the sake of both peoples.

We encourage the Canadian government to adopt policies that support peacemaking between Israelis and Palestinians and to oppose barriers to peace. To this end, we send communications voicing our views to government leaders, Members of Parliament and government officials. We also conduct briefings for Canada's Department of Global Affairs and MPs to acquaint them with the Israeli peace camp.

When dealing with external agencies, organizations or media, we emphasize that we represent an important part of mainstream Canadian Jewish opinion.

We strongly oppose one-sided attacks in which Israel is held to a different standard than other nations. We also make known our opposition to uncritical support of Israel that ignores the rights of Palestinians – a stance that runs counter to the long-term interests of Israel.

A recent example of our nuanced approach concerned “labelling” of settlement products. In August 2019, CFPN issued a statement welcoming a Canadian court ruling on wine made in West Bank Israeli settlements. The court ruled that such wine may not be labelled “Product of Israel.” We agreed because to do otherwise suggests that the West Bank may be regarded as part of Israel thereby “erasing” the Green Line. At the same time, we made clear that we do reject the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, which advocates a blanket boycott against Israel and seeks to de-legitimize Israel.

## **Emil Grunzweig Fellowship Award (EGFA) – Building the next generation of the peace camp**

CFPN's flagship program in Israel is the Emil Grunzweig Fellowship Award, which helps boost the peace and democracy work of a new generation of young leaders in Israel.

Emil Grunzweig was a Peace Now activist who, on 10 February 1983, suffered fatal injury when a Kahanist ultra-nationalist threw a bomb into a crowd of peaceful demonstrators in central Jerusalem.

The EGFA is a cash award that recognizes the achievements and potential of outstanding student activists. As part of the program, recipients receive guidance from Peace Now and conduct activities on university campuses and elsewhere to increase support for a two-state solution among their peers.

The recipients educate and inform their peers regarding the dangers of perpetual occupation, the contradiction between occupation and democracy and the necessity of a two-state solution.

EGFA fellows form discussion groups or clubs on their campuses and lead awareness campaigns to promote peace and democracy building. Peace Now brings these groups on tours of the West Bank to meet Palestinians there and to see the realities of occupation. Program funds help defray expenses for these activities.

In the 2018 – 2019 academic year, three students received fellowships: Adi Berkovich, (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Naor Ben Evgi, (Ben Gurion University) and Ariela Goldin (Kibbutzim College for Education, Technology and the Arts). In the 2019 – 2020 academic year, EGFA fellows were: Jonathan Alkobi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Rotem Ben Asher (Ben Gurion University) and Maya Ezra (IDC Herziliya).

A fourth Fellow for 2019-2020 had been planned. However, it was not possible to realize this plan because of the coronavirus pandemic that brought much of Israel, including university campuses, to a standstill. Instead, CFPN has funded a “Virtual West Bank Tour” video, which will give students insight into the settlement enterprise and how it affects Palestinians and prospects for peace.



**Message from שקד מורג (Shaqued Morag),  
Executive Director of Peace Now**

We deeply appreciate the support, both financial and moral, of Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

We are especially grateful for the Emil Grunzweig Fellowship Award, which helps us build up a new generation of peace activists on Israeli campuses.

This outreach to students is vital because of the general lack of understanding of peace and democracy issues among Israeli youth. Having grown up under right-wing regimes and been exposed for years to incitement against peace advocates, many young Israelis tend to be dismissive of our message. The best way to reach them is through their peers – young people like themselves.

The Emil Grunzweig Fellowship Award recipients have now created campus groups at four universities. They mobilize activists, enlist members, generate debate about solving the conflict and promote the vision of the two-state solution.

It was my pleasure and honour to meet with CFPN board members and supporters during my visits to Canada in 2019. I and my colleagues at Shalom Achshav are very glad to have CFPN as a partner organization that complements our work in Israel through education and advocacy in Canada. We look forward to continued collaboration in our efforts to keep the vision for Israeli-Palestinian peace alive.

**Message From: National Chairperson, Gabriella Goliger**

The past year and a half has been a time of much change and development for Canadian Friends of Peace Now. We were joined by two new board members – Joshua Cox and Saul Ship – who have given of their time and talent and greatly strengthened our organization. During 2019, we held a number of live public events to deepen understanding among Canadians of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Most notable of these events were the visits to Canada of Shaqued Morag, Executive Director of Peace Now, and Amir Tibon, Washington

correspondent for Ha'aretz. Shaqed came in May 2019 on a three-city tour to tell Canadian audiences about the work of the organization in Israel. She returned in November, under CFPN auspices, to speak at the JSpace Canada Biennial Conference. The majority of CFPN National Board members also attended the JSpace conference.

Following on our very successful speaking tour with Amir Tibon in March 2018, we brought him back to our three cities (Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa) in September 2019. This was just before the September 17 election in Israel (the 2nd round that year), and Amir was able to provide valuable insight into the parties, the campaigns, the positions and all that was at stake. In March of 2020, we hosted a lecture/discussion on Israel's forthcoming, third election, led by Simon Rosenblum.

Almost from the start of 2020, we were faced with new challenges. First, came the publication of the Trump Plan and the need to respond to what we believe is a deeply flawed and dangerous policy. Then came another round of Israeli elections, the coalition government and Netanyahu's accelerated timetable to begin unilaterally annexing parts of the West Bank. And while this was going on, the world, including Canada, was struck by COVID-19.

CFPN has risen to the challenge of both the pandemic and the annexation threat. Almost as soon as the emergency began, we switched to online events. Between April and September we held seven informative webinars with first-class guest speakers on various aspects of the annexation issue. We published a new series of our PeaceMatters newsletter called Annexation Watch, in which we explained the problems with annexation and reported on opposition to it both in Canada and abroad. We sent a letter to Canada's foreign minister expressing our concerns and asking Canada, as an ally of Israel, to speak out against this misguided policy. Together with the New Israel Fund of Canada and JSpaceCanada, we sponsored a similar letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, signed by 58 prominent Jews. We also participated in a world-wide anti-annexation initiative by J-Link, an international coalition of 50 progressive Jewish organizations. We signed the J-Link petition and also brought the CFPN perspective and concerns to representatives of Israel in Canada through Zoom meetings with the Israeli consulates in Toronto and Montreal.

In short, despite the coronavirus, we have been more active than ever. We will continue to do so. We will continue to support Peace Now's fight against annexation and occupation. We will raise our voice against policies that undermine peace and Israeli democracy and that jeopardize the only way forward – a negotiated two-state solution.

## Recent Events & Activities

### 2020

**September** Webinar – Bridging the Arab-Jewish Divide; Dr. Amal Elsana Alh’jooj, Social Worker extraordinaire & founder of Bedouin women’s empowerment organization.

**August** Webinar – Peace Now briefing for Canadian youth –with Brian Reeves and Jacob Kates Rose; Resisting Annexation and Occupation, the Role of Youth

**June** Israel’s Toronto Consul General, Galit Baram; Zoom meeting to discuss annexation, in participation with JLink. Toronto

**June** Israel's Montreal Consul General, David Levy; Zoom meeting to discuss annexation, in participation with JLink. Montreal

**June** Webinar – Israel's Annexation Agenda and Canada's Response, with Jon Allen, former Canadian Ambassador to Israel

**June** Webinar – Looming Annexation and the Israel-U.S. Relationship, with Guy Ziv, School of International Service, American University of Washington

**May** Webinar – Jerusalem: Eye of the Coming Storm? With Daniel Seidemann, internationally renowned expert on conflicts over Jerusalem

**April** Webinar – From Settlements to Annexation, with Shaqued Morag, Peace Now Executive Director, and Brian Reeves, Director of Development & External Relations

**April** Webinar - Ha'aretz correspondent, Amir Tibon; Perilous times: Israel, Politics and the Coronavirus

**March** Live public event – Simon Rosenblum; Understanding the Israeli Election Results, with Simon Rosenblum, founder member of CFPN Toronto

**January** Live public event – Palestinian couple speaks: Leaving Jerusalem under Duress Ottawa

## 2019

**February & October** Oslo Diaries; Play, followed by discussion with director and actors;  
Toronto (in partnership with the New Israel Fund of Canada) Montreal

**November** Shaqued Morag, Executive Director of Peace Now, panelist and others;  
participate in JSpace biennial conference Toronto

**September** Amir Tibon; Israel's 2019 Elections, an Insider's Perspective Montreal,  
Ottawa and Toronto

**June** Brian Rothberg, Report on NIFC study tour to Israel and West Bank - Ottawa

**May** Shaqued Morag; The Future of Peace – Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto

## PeaceMatters

Thanks to dedicated contributors, most notably Gabriella Goliger and Simon Rosenblum, our regular newsletter, PeaceMatters, provides insights and analysis on developments related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. All issues are available on our website:

<https://www.peacenowcanada.org/category/newsletter/> Recent articles include:

- Peace Now and partners fight dangerous new West Bank settlement plan. August 2020
- Two states is the one and only solution. August 2020
- Your donor dollars at work: Peace Now's youth program continues despite the pandemic. August 2020
- Annex and Disposess: Possible real-life consequences of annexation – July 2020
- Annexation Delayed; Annexation Denied – July 2020
- Annexation Watch #3 – Retired Canadian diplomats call on Trudeau to speak out against annexation – June 2020
- Daniel Seidemann – Jerusalem Eye of the Coming Storm? – June 2020
- Annexation Watch #2 – World reaction against annexation building – May 2020
- Annexation Watch #1 – No to Annexation; Yes to Peace – April 2020



- Bibi Wins – April 2020
- Israeli Election Aftermath: Part 2 – March 2020
- Fellowship winners advocate for peace – March 2020
- Bye bye Bibi – March 2020
- Peace Now protests alarming new settlement project – March 2020
- No art in the deal: The sad state of Israel-Palestine affairs - Feb 2020
- Where we stand on two key issues, BDS & Labelling - Jan 2020
- This is how we shine on! - Dec 2019
- Vote Early and Often - Dec 2019
- Bibi living on borrowed time, but little else will change - Sep 2019
- What if they held an election and nobody won? - Aug 2019
- Hypocrisy revealed: Peace Now exposes spike in unauthorized settlements, meanwhile East Jerusalem homes demolished - July 2019
- Silwan tunnel undermines two-state solution - July 2019
- Electoral impasse in Israel: What's next? – June 2019
- Once more the battle for Israel's soul - June 2019
- Shaqued Morag speaking tour – 7 take-aways - May 2019
- Israel's at a Tipping Point: Peace Camp Needed Now More Than Ever - April 2019
- Peace Now film designed to remind Israeli voters of need to end conflict – March 2019
- Alas, Israeli election outlook bleak – March 2019
- Emil Grunzweig memorial testifies to horrors of hate and Shalom Achshav resilience – Feb 2019
- Peace Now warns against dangerous new settlement project – Jan 2019

## **Press Releases**

Canadian Friends of Peace Now issues an average of two press releases a month, ensuring that friends, the media, and the general public have regular access to our pro-Israel, pro-peace perspective. All are available in the 'News Release' section of our website:

<https://www.peacenowcanada.org/category/news-releases/>

## Financial Statement – Summary from Accountant, Flax Spitzer's Report

### SHALOM ACHSHAV PEACE FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### ASSETS and LIABILITIES

##### ASSETS

Cash	145,613
Other	4,688

Total	150,301
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LIABILITIES	nil
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#### REVENUES and EXPENSES

##### REVENUES

Donations <sup>i</sup>	88,315
Other revenues	5,425

Total	93,740
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##### EXPENSES

Charitable and educational <sup>ii</sup>	29,052
Fundraising and general	13,515

Total	42,567
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Excess of revenues over expenses	51,173
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i Includes a special bequest of \$40 000

ii In 2019, an additional \$7500 was committed to be paid to Shalom Achshav in 2020

## CFPN Board of Directors

### Montreal



**Bernard Bohbot** is a Ph.D. student at Université du Québec à Montréal. His dissertation topic: *Phénoménologie de l'esprit juif en Mai 68*, deals with the way Jewish radical activists who took part in the May 1968 student riots in France were influenced by their own Jewish background. This research also surveys their tortuous (sometimes hostile) relations with the state of Israel.



**David Cohen:** Former senior civil servant and consultant. David Cohen holds post-graduate degrees in business administration and economics from the University of Montreal and completed doctoral studies in community and regional planning at UBC. He has worked for many years as an economist, senior government policy and political advisor and executive in the economic, social, intergovernmental and international fields in the federal, provincial and municipal sectors as well as a senior consultant in public program evaluation and strategic analysis.

He has published in scientific and professional journals and lectured across Canada in the fields of regional and municipal development and program evaluation. He has also published numerous articles on Israeli-Palestinian issues in the Quebec francophone media.



**Reuven Shultz** From 1991-2005 Reuven was the Montreal Director of the Labour Zionist Alliance (Farband). He has been active with Canadian Friends of Peace Now for more than fifteen years and is currently the Chair of the Montreal chapter.

## Ottawa



**Gabriella Goliger** has been involved with Canadian Friends of Peace Now since its inception in the early 1980s. She helped found the Ottawa Chapter and served as its Chair for many years. For the past two years, she has also served as the organization's National Chair. Gabriella is an award-winning fiction author. Her latest novel, *Eva Salomon's War* is set in Palestine during the British Mandate era.

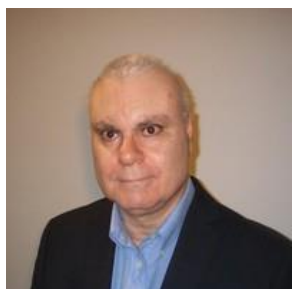


**Brian Rothberg** After acquiring undergraduate degrees in business administration and education obtained a graduate degree in political science with a specialty in international relations. He is a retired educator with additional experience in real estate management and sales. He has volunteered in Israel through the Israeli Forum's Yad B'Yad program in the 1990s and has been active in Potlucks for Peace an Arab/Jewish dialogue group in Ottawa. With close family in Israel he has visited on a number of occasions for personal and educational purposes.

## Toronto



**Joshua Hugh Cox** is an experienced business professional focusing on informational technology. He supports Peace Now in areas of finance, governance and social media. An advocate of creative solutions to complex problems, Joshua aims to bridge divides between seemingly intractable opposing views.



**Sheldon Gordon** was born and raised in Winnipeg, and earned an M.A. at Carleton University's School of International Affairs. He later served as a Southam Fellow at the University of Toronto and as an Asia Pacific Foundation Fellow in India. During a lengthy career in journalism, he worked in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto in roles with the Toronto Star, Financial Post, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., The Globe and Mail and the Financial Times of Canada. For many years, he was Canadian correspondent for the Jewish Forward. He has been a CFPN Board member since the late 1980s, including a lengthy stint as chair of the Toronto chapter.



**Bob Katz** is a professional social worker in private practice and a long-time social activist. He is on the National Board of Canadians for Peace Now and Chair of the Toronto chapter. He is also on the JSpace Advisory Board. Prior to this, he spent fifteen years on the Board of Directors of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations including three as Vice President and three as President. Other volunteer activities include twelve

years on the Board of Directors of the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto and many, many years with Hillel Children's Workshop, including three as Chair. He is a longstanding member of Darchei Noam where his main duties are cleaning up and preparing last minute d'var torahs when no one else is available.



**Issie Lyon** was born into an active Labour Zionist household. He was active in the Labour Zionist Youth group, Habonim and its Quebec summer Camp Kvutza. Issie has one of the first Masters of Environmental Studies degrees in Canada and worked for the Ontario provincial government as an economic development policy advisor. He represented Ontario on a number of Federal Provincial committees. He chaired the Canadian Advisory Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility. Issie has been active in Canadian Friends of Peace Now for forty years. He was also one of the founders of JSpace Canada.



**Saul Ship**, originally from Montreal, is a Ph.D. Chemist who has spent most of his career in industry and continues to work as a Consultant to Medical Device companies. After spending a year in Israel doing research at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, he fell in love with the country and has returned many times with his wife, Viviane and family. He has always worried about the effects of the occupation on Israeli society and has tried to fight for inclusion and justice in Israel, and in Canada. He is an active member of Holy Blossom Temple where he sings in the choir and volunteers.



**Jacqueline Swartz** has published articles on travel, health and other topics in most major Canadian publications, as well as in Conde Nast Traveller, the Boston Globe and the Chicago Tribune and Agence France-Presse. She has visited no-go places in India, covered politics in Greece and published a three-part series on popular philosophy in France. A native San Franciscan, she lives in Toronto.

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