

THE PEACE VOICE

Newsletter for the Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College



Peace Studies Student Profile – Kendra Brea Cooper

Here's a look at one of Selkirk College's Peace Studies students, Kendra. I am curious in what draws people to study peace and the creative ways in which they bring these studies into their community. Kendra has a unique approach to peace activism; fusing art with activism by utilizing media such as textile arts, and involvement in local theatre that focuses on advocating human rights. Last spring Kendra was a facilitator for the West Kootenay Youth Action Summit, a weekend long workshop that engages with high school students on topics such as social justice and global citizenship. She is currently involved in a local group called N.E.O.N. (Nelson End the Occupation Now). N.E.O.N focuses on raising awareness about the Israeli occupation of Palestine. When talking to Kendra, her passion and initiative for peace activism is uplifting. Here are some questions I asked her.

Name: Kendra Brea Cooper

Age: 24

Program: Liberal Arts Diploma in Peace Studies, graduating winter 2011

Interests: Theatre, anarchist artwork, political satire, autonomous media, international relations...and a thousand other things.

What projects are you involved, or have currently been involved in?:

I like to blend art with activism. I've recycled t-shirts with painted quotes about peace on them. I really enjoyed Peace 202, which was Leadership for Peace. We had to do a practicum where we put thoughts into action. It's where I started "T-shirts for peace". They're recycled material, not made in a sweatshop, and anyone can wear them. The t-shirts make it easy for people to express a personal statement about peace without having to step out of their comfort zone. The money from the shirts goes to charity groups. I'm currently looking into creating a theatre company that produces plays about social justice.

What attracted you to this program?:

I chose this program because it covers many topics. Sometimes I feel like people want to put you into a specific category when you're an activist. They say that you are either a human rights activist or an environmental activist. That you can only focus on one thing at a time. For me, I feel it can be different. I'm a human rights activist because I love humans, I'm an environmental activist because I love humans, and I'm

an animal rights activist because I love humans...and animals. It's all connected. You can't have one without the other. The peace studies program covers everything from social justice to economic justice and more.

An inspirational leader of peace to you:

Vandana Shiva is a huge inspiration for me. She's a brilliant female activist. Her impact has led to a paradigm shift in agriculture which has a large impact on human rights.

What do you see yourself doing at 30?:

At 30 I see myself doing what I do now, only better.



Mir Centre for
**PEACE
LECTURE
SERIES**
Winter 2011



SHARON BUTALA

NEVER BEFORE IN HISTORY

Never in history has there been such a large cohort of women living beyond their 70's, still in good health, who collectively, are often trapped by poverty and the loss of meaningful roles in our individualistic society.

Sharon Butala is a prairie author who has published 16 books of fiction and non-fiction. Speaking on International Women's Day, and drawing on her own writing, Sharon's talk will focus on the role of contemporary older women in North American Society.



Location: Mir Centre for Peace, Castlegar campus
Date and Time: 7pm, Tuesday, March 8, 2011
Cost: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students
Tickets: Available at the door

selkirk.ca/mir | 250.365.1234

Selkirk  College