

MIR CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019





"Inside and Out" CE course participants at the Mir Centre, May 1-3, with course facilitator Yves Côté (top left) and Mir Chair, Jennie Barron, (bottom left).

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Mir – a cherished Russian word meaning ‘peace, community, world’ all rolled into one. What a beautiful concept! It gives me great pleasure to share with you the activities of the Mir Centre for Peace for 2018-2019. Gathering these photos and re-reading the words of those who participated in our various programs brings back memories of every colour – the moments when I felt deeply moved; the times of stress as we worked to make plans come together; the relief and laughter when it all worked out; the days of shock and sadness brought on by tragic world events; the solidarity and hope we felt when we came together to care, to plan, and to envision the world of tomorrow that we know is possible.

A lot happens in a year. And this being my first year as Chair of the Mir, it sure felt big! I am filled with gratitude for the team I got to work with, including Randy Janzen, Cara-lee Malange, Madelyn MacKay, Ashlyn Schwaiger, Parfaite Ntahuba, Yves Côté, Todd Kettner, Gerry Sobie, the Lecture Series Working Circle, the *One River: Ethics Matter* organizing committee, our partners in Indigenous Services, Nelson Restorative Justice, and Convergence, our helpful friends in Marketing, our talented students, and you.

Thanks for reading, thanks for coming out, thanks for sharing your ideas, your hopes, your inspiration. May our actions for peace and justice in the coming year be guided by wisdom, compassion and hope.

Jennie Barron, Chair



Photo L to R: Shawn Brigman, Shelly Boyd, Barry Moses. *One River: Ethics Matter* conference, May 30-31



mircentre
for peace

2018 - 2019 Highlights

This past year the Mir Centre continued our highly successful Mir Lecture series with four inspiring guest speakers. We also offered six training courses - four through Community Education and two for faculty and staff.

Other highlights of the year included the *One River: Ethics Matter* conference, several exciting student extra-curricular opportunities and engagement in numerous new community partnerships.

Visit us at selkirk.ca/mir to find us on Facebook or to sign up for our newsletters

Mir Lecture Series

We recognize world peace will come not through one simple act, but rather as the final outcome of thousands of smaller undertakings. Dialogue plays a key role and we seek to encourage this with the following inspiring speakers, promoting cultures of peace in our communities. Drawing on a diverse selection of local and international speakers, the Mir Lecture Series delivers new views on community and global issues.



SHANNON MORONEY

Justice, Forgiveness and Healing (Nov 21)

A partnership with Nelson Restorative Justice



JORDAN ABEL

Indigeneity, intergenerational trauma, reconciliation and creative work (March 16)

*Part of the Reconciliation Speaker Series,
A partnership with Indigenous Services*



CHIEF ROBERT JOSEPH

Healing a Nation Through Truth and Reconciliation (April 4)

*Part of the Reconciliation Speaker Series,
A partnership with Indigenous Services*



JOY KOGAWA

The Journey Toward Forgiveness (June 9)

A partnership with Convergence Writers Weekend

Photo: Yukiko Onley

Campus Education & Training

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Feb 19, 2019 - Full-length dramatic simulation of a restorative justice conference, open to all college staff as part of Discovery Day (professional development) at Tenth Street Campus, Nelson. Attended by 14 college staff. Facilitated by Gerry Sobie and Jennie Barron with roleplaying by seven wonderful volunteers.

CONFLICT DE-ESCALATION

Feb 20, 2019 – Day-long course created by the Association for Psychological Therapies and delivered by Dr Todd Kettner for members of the Selkirk College Faculty Association (SCFA); attended by 15 instructors and supported by the SCFA's Group Professional Development Fund.

"Very useful for pointers/ideas for managing conflict situations. Ideas were simple and easy to follow and remember."

Community Education



ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE

April 28, 2019 – One-day contracted training for Nelson Restorative Justice volunteers, facilitated by Yves Côté at Silver King Campus for 24 participants.

"It was so profound to learn directly from a person willing to share their lived experience of the criminal justice and child welfare system in such a generous and open way. The depth we were able to reach in conversations far surpassed my experiences with textbooks."

INSIDE & OUT: A RELATIONAL APPROACH TO TRANSFORMATION AND REINTEGRATION

May 1-3, 2019 – Three-day non-credit course exploring the experiences of incarcerated persons and how community members can support them upon their release from prison. Co-facilitated by Jennie Barron and formerly incarcerated "lifer", Yves Côté, with seven students at the Mir Centre.

"Meeting Yves and listening to his life story made me dream about what real rehabilitation should look like."

"Meeting Yves and his wife, Kim, hearing how he is transforming his and others' lives through the Alternatives to Violence Project gives me enormous hope."



Instructor Madelyn Mackay (left) with students in Nelson UCP course.

“A pivotal turning point in my life... gave me real direction, which up until that point I had been unable to find.”



Students in Burundi UCP course

UNARMED CIVILIAN PEACEKEEPING (UCP)



May 21-26 – Six-day course at Tenth Street Campus (Nelson) taught by Madelyn MacKay. Students raved about the experience.

“A deeply enriching experience. Through interactive learning activities, presentation of theory, and videos to show UCP in action, I learned and practiced new skills, tested ideas and confirmed that each one of us has the potential to be powerful peacekeepers.”



May 14-24 – Two week UCP course in Bujumbura, Burundi; taught by Ashlyn Schwaiger to twenty skilled and enthusiastic Burundian students.

“I was privileged to meet UC Peacekeepers in Africa and to be given a glimpse into their world, which broke my heart and inspired me to take action where I can.”

“I hope Selkirk College will continue offering this course to the public and more people will learn how we can be a more evolved, understanding and compassionate, civil society.”

Student support

- Facilitated student participation in **SPARC (Student Partners in Action with Refugees Canada)** organized by the Centre for Global Education in Edmonton. The project involved video linking through a virtual classroom with students at several schools across Canada, and culminated in sending one student to Ottawa for a collaborative writers' weekend, resulting in a student-written brief to be presented to the **United Nations High Commission for Refugees**.

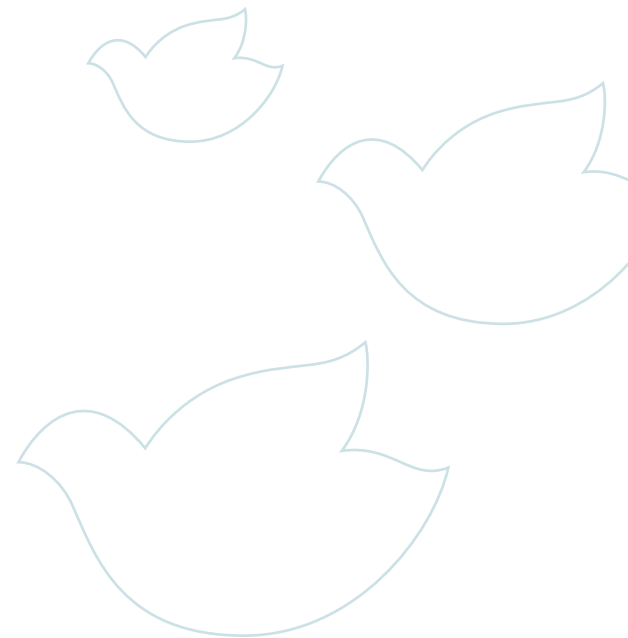
- Provided a travel bursary to a student from Calgary to come take the UCP course.

With funds donated by Myler Wilkinson, supported Selkirk College instructor Randy Janzen's peace and justice studies classes:

- March 29, 2019 - The PEAC 101 class -(Conflict Transformation) hosted a Community Conversation to share and learn from the experiences of international students as they integrate into the community of Castlegar. Event held at St Rita's Catholic Church and attended by approximately 100 people.
- November 15-16, 2018 - Violence: A Love Story – public poster display of PEAC 100 student work on successful nonviolent campaigns and movements from around the world.

"Ottawa was a valuable and memorable experience. The most important thing I learned was that Yes! Canada can do more for refugees moving forward"

– Kirsten Jansen, SPARC participant

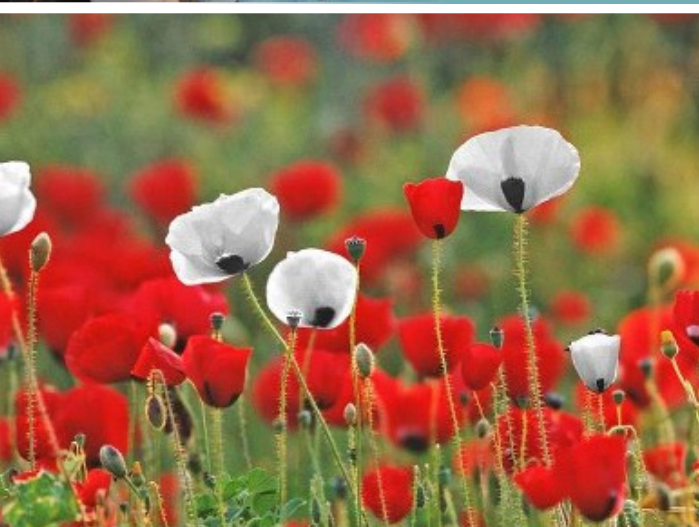




Members of the Al-Hanafy family attending vigil for victims of the two mass shootings at mosques in New Zealand.



Vigil attendees, March 21



Other community initiatives

- Sept 21, 2018 – Celebrated International Peace Day at the Gathering Place, Selkirk College and Millenium Park, Castlegar
- Nov 11, 2018 – Distributed white poppies at Remembrance Day to commemorate all those who have lost their lives in war, including civilians, as well as the destruction of the environment. White poppies also symbolize a commitment to work for a culture of peace.
- March 21, 2019 – Held a vigil at the Mir Centre for the victims of the New Zealand mosque shootings. The event was attended by nearly 100 people and featured on the front page of the Castlegar News.

Vigil Photos: John Boivin, courtesy Black Press



One River: Ethics Matter Conference

- May 30 & 31, 2019 - On behalf of the Ethics and Treaty Project, organized and hosted a two-day conference focused on our relationships with and responsibility to the Columbia River
- Brought in over 150 people to hear 35 speakers and join in discussions on ethics, history, responsibility, and future actions to safeguard the river.
- Attendees participated in local field trips, a blessing of a Salishan Sturgeon Nose Canoe, a campfire social, a salmon BBQ, and an afternoon showcasing youth-focused activities on the Columbia River.
- Involved five months of preparations with a planning committee of 12 people, and fundraising over \$14,000.



Shelley Boyd, Arrow Lakes facilitator, Colville Confederated Tribes, in Salishan Sturgeon Nose Canoe made by artist Shawn Brigman, PhD

- Major sponsors included Selkirk College Indigenous Services, Anglican Diocese of Kootenay (Valhalla Parish), Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), Center for Environmental Law & Policy (CELP), Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and co-host, Spokane Community College.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Jennie Barron, Mir Chair

phone **1.888.953.1133, ext. 21461**

email **jbarron@selkirk.ca**

web **selkirk.ca/mir**