



## **Ottawa Peace Tower, Victoria Cathedral Bells to Ring in Global Campaign to Recognize 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bombing of Hiroshima And Nagasaki**

At 8:15 a.m. on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 11:50 a.m. on August 9<sup>th</sup> muffled bells of the Ottawa Peace Tower and Victoria's historic Christ Church Cathedral will toll in remembrance of the hour that atomic bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki seventy-five years ago. Members of diverse faith traditions and peace groups will join in this and similar activities, here and around the world. The Bells for Peace campaign marks the first time members of multiple faith traditions and peace activists have united to mark the bombings. The week of August 2-9 has been designated *Hibakusha Remembrance Week*, honouring the survivors of the bombings.

Regionally, Bells for Peace is sponsored by the Victoria Multifaith Society, World Beyond War Victoria, and International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War Canada.

At the request of the Speaker of the House of Commons and Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May, Dominion Carrilloner Dr. Andrea McCrady will toll the largest Peace Tower bell 75 times on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the appointed hours. Dr. McCrady announced further: "These solemn tolls will be live streamed via the Peace Tower Carrillon website so they may be heard across Canada and across the world."

Sheila Flood and Yavhel Velasquez of the Victoria Multifaith Society and the Interfaith Liaison Network are leading the broader outreach to religious communities. "We hope that many communities and individuals will participate by 'making a noise' at the appropriate times, not only to honour the victims of the 1945 nuclear blasts, but to signal a desire that all nations abolish this continued threat to the safety of the world's peoples. There are no conditions under which nuclear war would be justified," said Sheila Flood.

Highlighting the events will be the global ringing of church bells, hand bells and phone bells. "Bells will ring around the world, from Halifax, to Fairfax, Virginia, to Christ Church, New Zealand", said local organizer Bill Geimer, a member of Anglican Church of the Advent in Colwood and the Victoria chapter of World Beyond War.

Thanks to World Beyond War International, viewers around the world will see a live presentation on at noon PDT on August 6<sup>th</sup> by three local experts. Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford is past president of the Nobel Prize winning International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War. She has twice been recipient of the Governor General of Canada Award and has participated in humanitarian missions to North Korea. Dr. Jonathan Down is current president of International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War Canada. He is a pediatrician at the Queen Alexandra Centre on Children's Health. Magritte Gordaneer of Victoria is a student at McGill University. She co-founded McGill Students for Peace and Disarmament, the university's only peace group.

The program will include a Q& A period. The presentations will feature a remembrance of the bombings; information about public health consequences of a nuclear explosion; the state of the current threat, and the current state of international efforts to avoid another nuclear holocaust. For a [link to the free program](#), go to [victoriamultifaith.com](http://victoriamultifaith.com) or [worldbeyondwar.org/events](http://worldbeyondwar.org/events).

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