26th International Congress and the WFMC National Meeting

World Federalists come together in Winnipeg

Canadian and international World Federalists gathered in Winnipeg from July 8–13 for the 26th International Congress of the World Federalist Movement along with WFM–Canada’s national meeting.

Some of the highlights include:

- A thematic panel (video available) on a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly was moderated by WFM–Canada executive director Fergus Watt with panelists, Andreas Bummel (Chairman and CEO, Committee for a Democratic UN), Bill Blaikie (former member of parliament) and Warren Allmand (WFM–Canada President).
- A second thematic panel, on the 10th Anniversary of the International Criminal Court, featured William Pace, Executive Director of WFM-IGP and Convenor of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, and Takahiro Katsumi of WFM Japan. The panel began with a video from WFM-IGP and a presentation on the Crime of Aggression by Mr. Katsumi. Video of the discussion that followed is on the website.
- On Thursday evening, WFM–Canada hosted an awards banquet which saw the presentation of the World Peace Award to author Erna Paris and the Hanna Newcombe Lifetime Achievement Award to longtime WFM member Jim Christie. See the
opposing page for excerpts of Erna Paris’ speech. Audio recordings of the speeches are also available at the WFMC website.

- During the week, a number of “side events” were held. Shimri Zameret discussed the Occupy movement and grassroots approaches to democracy; Bob Flax presented the new website of the Democratic World Federalists; Chris Hamer led a discussion on uniting the democracies; and Fernando Iglesias explained the “Manifesto for Global Democracy.” As well, there was a discussion on involving young people in the World Federalist Movement with Shimri Zameret, Becky Luff and Joan-Marc Simon.

- Four Policy Commissions met throughout the week and developed policy outcome documents that were adopted by WFM-IGP. The four commissions were organized thematically: International Justice, the Rule of Law and Human Rights; Peace, Human Security and Conflict Prevention; Global democracy and United Nations Reform – Federalism at different levels; and Global Environmental and Economic Governance – Managing the Global Commons and the effects of Economic and Social Globalization. The text of these statements are also available at the WFMC website.

Photos are available from various events, including the opening reception, WFMC’s national meeting, a brown bag lunch with WFM President Lloyd Axworthy, the thematic panels and the WFM–Canada awards banquet.

See http://www.worldfederalistscanada.org/Winnipeg.html for all of the above.