

# Added Item 8.1

## UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA HAMILTON BRANCH



### What Ten Actions Will Council Take to Reduce Plastic Waste in Hamilton before 2021?

#### Dear Members of Public Works Committee,

In October of 2009, Dr. David Adams, a guest of the Gandhi Peace Festival and the implementor of the United Nations Manifesto 2000 for Peace for the Youth and Children of the World spoke to this Public Works Committee. He challenged the committee then, as he did in cities around the world to understand that developing a culture of peace was in the hands of cities, communities and the small organizations of civil society. Here is a quote from his 2008 book,

*"The next collapse of the state system will give us the opportunity to establish a culture of peace through a global system of democratic local authorities. To prepare for this, we need a very specific strategy. The time is short, and the tasks are urgent."*

- 1. Strengthen cities, towns and the surrounding countryside as the basic institutional unit for a culture of peace.*
- 2. Give priority in social movements and non-governmental organizations to work together for a culture of peace within the framework of local governments, recognizing that each aspect of a culture of peace, including women's equality, economic justice, ecological sustainability, human rights, democracy and free flow of information, cannot be attained separately within the culture of war, but that they can only be attained together within a framework based on democratic governance."*

#### The Outcome of the UNA Canada Hamilton Branch Peace Luncheon on April 25

On April 25<sup>th</sup> Lynda Lukasik, Executive Director of Environment Hamilton spoke to the United Nations Peace Luncheon, sharing data about the global impact of plastic waste and drawing attention to local plastic waste issues facing us here in Hamilton. It was the overwhelming position of the many groups represented that I bring a strong message to Public Works this morning challenging you to have staff look carefully at what other Canadian Cities are going to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic and to look beyond to parts of Europe where actions were taken decades ago to force manufacturers and retailers to take responsibility for packaging and recycling.

On the back of this page we identify 10 things that we as citizens can do and the organizations and faith communities present at the Peace Luncheon will work between now and 2021 to do our part.

#### Our Question for your consideration and action is:

**"What Immediate Steps can the City Council Take to Reduce the Impact of Plastic on the Health of our citizens and on the Environment of our City?"**

Respectfully,

Gail Rappolt and Anne Pearson

United Nations Association in Canada, Hamilton Branch

For the many organizations and faith groups present at the Peace Luncheon