

## Press Release

### The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mahatma Gandhi Peace Festival & Peace Walk (Hamilton, Canada)

From: The Centre for Peace Studies, McMaster University

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Hamilton, ON.—Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> hundreds will gather to celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mahatma Gandhi Peace Festival and participate in a peace walk downtown at McMaster University, Down Town Centre (DTC) (50 Main Street East, Hamilton). In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gandhi's seminal book "Hind Swaraj (Home Rule)", the theme of this year's festival is "*Swadeshi: Gandhi's Economics of Self Reliance*." A special panel discussion will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at the St. Paul's Anglican Church at 1140 King St West, Hamilton.

While promoting non-violence, peace and social justice the festival will offer the unique opportunity to explore connections between peace and the economics of self reliance and sustainability. The festival will also mark the International Day of Non-Violence (October 2) as declared by the United Nations in 2007. The day corresponds to Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and will recognize Gandhi's important contributions to building peace and the continued relevance of his philosophy today.

All are welcome to attend the celebrations from 10:00am to 3:00pm that brings together peace, social justice and community organizations from the Hamilton community in a demonstration of solidarity. There will be entertainment, guest speakers, a peace walk downtown and a free hot vegetarian lunch.

Keynote speaker Rajmohan Gandhi, historian, scholar and Gandhi's grandson, will provide valuable insight into living in harmony with local produce and environmental sustainability. Rajmohan will deliver the twelfth Annual Gandhi Lecture on Friday, October 2, 2009 at McMaster University from 7:00-9:00 pm as well make a brief presentation at the festival on Saturday.

Admission is free and participants are encouraged to bring banners that support the Economics of Self Reliance, peace and "local before global" as they join the peace walk.

In addition to the Festival, MAC Peace Week will complement the festival with a series of events about peace and self reliance that span from September 28th to October 2nd. These events run by McMaster University students to increase peace education, build solidarity among collaborating campus organizations and foster a culture of peace. More details can be found on the Gandhi Peace Festival website.

#### Festival Activities:

Location: McMaster University, Down Town Centre (DTC) (50 Main Street West, Hamilton)

Saturday October 3, 2009

10:00am-11:00am - Peace and Justice Fair of Community Organizations

11:00am-12:00pm - Welcome and Greetings - Mayor Eisenberger

Keynote Speaker – Rajmohan Gandhi (Historian, Scholar, Gandhi's grandson)

12:00pm-1:00pm - Peace Walk Downtown Hamilton

1:00pm-3:00pm - Free hot lunch (Indian Food), and Entertainment

The Gandhi Peace Festival is co-sponsored by the Centre for Peace Studies (McMaster University), The India-Canada Society (Hamilton), and the City of Hamilton.

For more information, please contact the Gandhi Peace Festival coordinator at [Gandhi.peace.festival@gmail.com](mailto:Gandhi.peace.festival@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/gandhi/>