

'Two Davids' nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

By JOAN DELANEY
Epoch Times Staff

Canadian human rights advocates David Kilgour and David Matas have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their work related to organ harvesting crimes against Falun Gong practitioners in China.

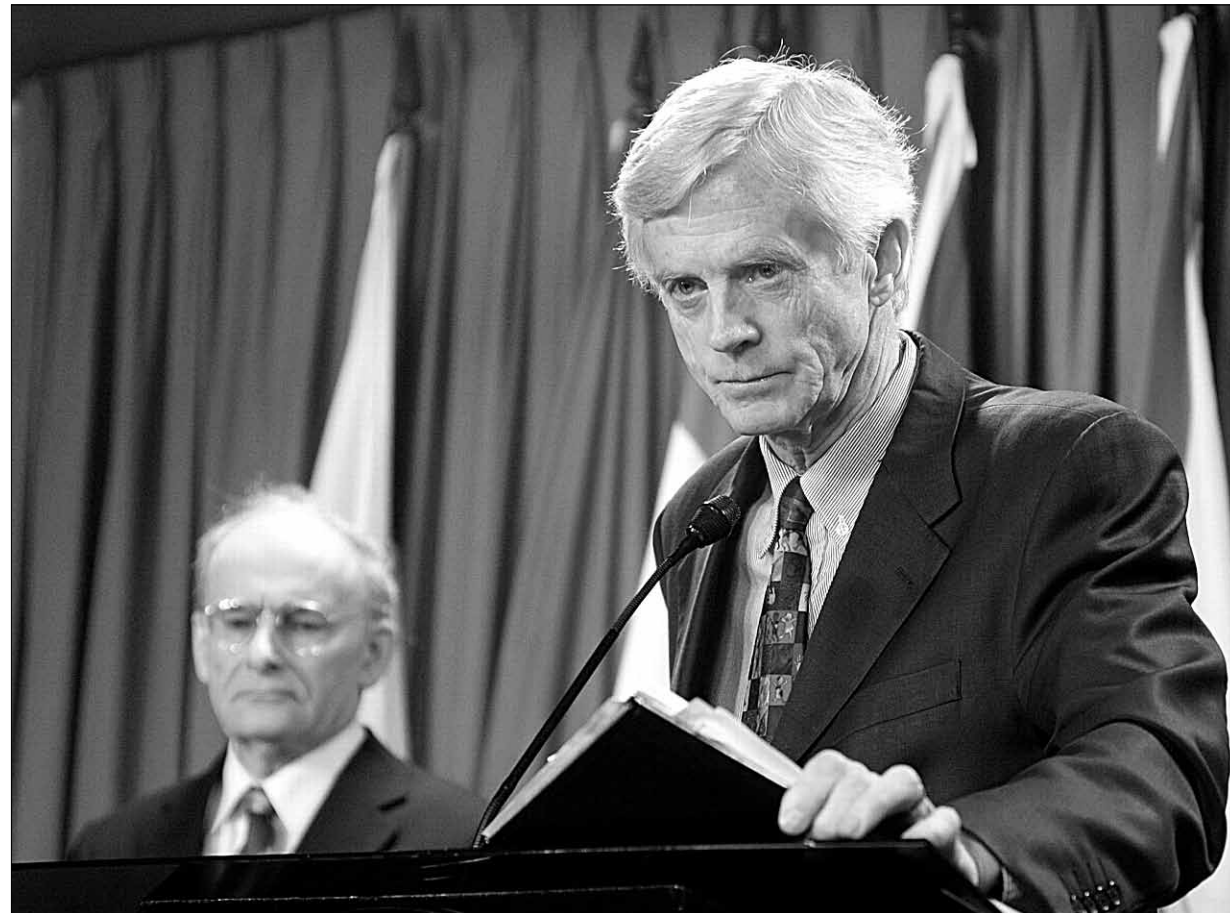
In his nomination to the Nobel committee, one of the nominators, Liberal MP Boris Wrzesnewskyj, said awarding the prize to Matas and Kilgour "would help the world realize that liberty, human rights, and the rule of law can be won by determined peaceful acts of conscience."

"I've had the pleasure of meeting and knowing the two Davids for a number of years now, and from my work with them it's quite clear that these are two incredibly courageous men who made the decision not to stand by and observe the horrific injustice—they were going to do something about it," Wrzesnewskyj said in an interview on Tuesday.

A former cabinet minister and Crown prosecutor, Kilgour was Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, and Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific. Matas is a human rights lawyer, a member of the Order of Canada, and author of eight books.

Both are recipients of the 2009 Human Rights Award from the International Society for Human Rights, also in recognition of their efforts in investigating the Chinese Communist Party's organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioners.

In his nomination, Wrzesnewskyj said that as a result of Matas and Kilgour's "selfless efforts" in traveling to 44 countries to raise awareness of the situation, world leaders and global citizens have



NOBEL NOMINEES: Former Canadian cabinet minister and Crown prosecutor David Kilgour presents a revised report about the murder of Falun Gong practitioners in China for their organs, as report co-author lawyer David Matas listens in the background, on Jan. 31, 2007. MATTHEW HILDEBRAND/THE EPOCH TIMES

gained a better understanding of the issue concerning the illicit harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners' organs in China.

As well as two reports, Kilgour and Matas co-authored *Bloody Harvest: The killing of Falun Gong for their organs*, a 2009 book detailing evidence that tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners had been killed by the Chinese regime in the process of extracting their organs for lucrative transplant surgeries.

"They investigated, they pro-

duced reports, and now having produced those reports they've continued on a global campaign to inform the world of what was taking place," Wrzesnewskyj says.

Kilgour and Matas have urged countries to discourage or prevent their citizens from going to China for organs. Their investigations found that many rich foreigners seek transplants in China, where a matching donor can be found in mere weeks while in other countries it takes an aver-

age of 2.5 years.

"We trade with China and we sometimes forget the political system that exists there, the human cost of it, and how destructive it can be," Wrzesnewskyj says.

He believes Matas and Kilgour are "absolutely deserving of the rest of humanity saying thanks", because they have shown that "two people can make a difference."

The 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony takes place on Dec. 10, 2010 in Oslo, Norway.

Canada celebrates Maple Leaf's 45th anniversary

By CINDY CHAN
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OTTAWA—Canadians celebrated the 45th anniversary of their National Flag with its striking red and white maple leaf on Feb. 15, National Flag of Canada Day.

"Since it first appeared in 1965, our distinctive maple leaf flag has become a national icon. It is recognized both at home and abroad as a symbol of peace, democracy, freedom and courage," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement.

"Forty-five years ago, the Maple Leaf flag was raised on Parliament Hill, across Canada, and at Canadian missions around the world for the first time. Today, our flag is cherished by Canadians and admired throughout the world as a symbol of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and human rights," said James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.

Mr. Moore, who was at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, took part in a celebration at the Canada Pavilion in the host city.

In the nation's capital, Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, attended a flag-raising ceremony at Ottawa City Hall.

"Flag Day is an opportunity to honour our history, as well as the sacrifices made in defence of our country under the flag and its predecessors, the historical flags of Canada. Since it was proclaimed by the Queen in 1965, the Maple Leaf flag has been Canada's most recognizable national symbol," said Mr. Kenney.

Declared National Flag of Canada Day in 1996, Feb 15 provides an opportunity for Canadians to celebrate the flag and learn about its history and symbolism.

The National Flag bears the official colours of Canada, red and white, designated by King George V in the proclamation of the Royal Arms of Canada in 1921. The two colours are significant because since the 11th century they have been used time and again as the colours of either England or France.

Canada has used the maple leaf as an emblem since the 18th century. It was Dr. George Stanley, a professor at Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, who in 1964 suggested the single leaf design for the flag, since it can be seen clearly from a distance.

Canada's maple leaf flag is widely regarded by flag experts as one of the world's most beautiful flags because it has a simple design and only two colours.

Olympics bring opportunity, controversy for First Nations

CONTROVERSY CONTINUED FROM P1 Specifically, they say the Four Host First Nations—the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh—are under the influence of Indian bands that are puppets of the federal government.

All the venues in the Games are located on the traditional territory of these four First Nations.

"It should be remembered that the band councils were imposed by the government as a means to control and assimilate native peoples. They lack popular support and only exist because of government funding," says a website purporting to represent the "No 2010" movement.

Last weekend Anti-Olympic rioters in Vancouver hurled trash cans into the street and smashed car windshields and the windows of a downtown Hudson Bay store. Some anti-Olympic groups have distanced themselves from the riots but others, including the "No 2010" group have defended them.

"Stolen land" refers to the fact that all events are held on unceded First Nations' territories as British Columbia did not have the treaties that transferred ownership of lands from Aboriginal peoples to the British Crown.

Tewanee Joseph, executive director of the Four Host First Nations, believes the Games will mark a new beginning in relations between Aboriginal peoples and the various other governments of Canada, and resents outsiders decrying the Games on behalf of the First Nations his group represents.

"It is on unceded territory, there are no treaties in this area, there have been very few treaties in British Columbia, but at the same time we have a profound respect for other First Nations people's territories—we'd never go anywhere else in this country and speak for them," he said.

"So when people say 'No Olympics on stolen native land,' I say no one needs to come in and speak for us. We are ready, able and willing to do that. For too long, we've had people come in and try to speak for us."

He added that Canada has had a shameful history in how it has treated aboriginal people and much of that has been related to First Nations being denied their own voice.

"These are our territories, we've been very strong in saying that."

While it is fine for people to bring up issues like this in a democracy, Joseph said it should be done respectfully.

Whether a mark of exploitation or cooperation, the Olympics have brought the First Nations iconography into the very core of its branding.

It began with choosing an Inuit

inukshuk as the logo. This stone marker has been used by the Inuit as a guide marker through Arctic terrain for centuries.

The opening ceremonies went further, incorporating the Four Host Nations into the beginning of the program through a contingent of traditional dancers and a message from each nation welcoming spectators and athletes to their territory.

And in an unprecedented move, the Four Host Nations' leaders were granted head of state status at the opening ceremony.

The medals given to athletes are also marked with a pattern themed on Aboriginal art and speakers placed in the trees at Whistler Olympic Park broadcast a greeting from the Lil'wat Nation welcoming visitors to their territory.

But it has been more than a branding effort, says Joseph. He believes the integral role First Nations had in hosting the Games will mark a breakthrough in relations between Aboriginal governments and various Canadian governments, and he has seen tremendous pride in what that new relationship has accomplished.

He says the games have involved over 100 Aboriginal businesses and around \$7 million.

"This is a real partnership and we believe it will change the face of Canada," he said.

Some other First Nation community leaders are less sanguine about the Olympics but take note of the positive aspects.

Mike Dangeli, a co-founder of a traditional First Nation dance group called The Git Hayetsk Dancers, has been invited to perform at different times by VANOC and others connected to the Games, but has chosen not to.

Dangeli said VANOC often didn't respect the integrity of the traditions they were asking him to put on display and he felt at times they were trying to use him and his fellow performers as "window dressing."

But while he has felt disrespected by VANOC's cavalier attitude towards important First Nation traditions, he thinks the Four Host First Nations have worked hard and accomplished a lot with their involvement with the Games. Perhaps most important, he said, was getting the government to acknowledge that these lands are the traditional territory of the respective nations on a world stage.

Anyone calling the Four Host First Nations "token Indians" is being disrespectful and divisive, he said.

"That kind of comment is to elicit an emotional response of anger or frustration and it is ugly. It is pitting First Nations people against each other and it is really counterproductive."

Green jobs to increase but skills shortage looms, says report

GREEN JOBS CONTINUED FROM P1 The elementary- and middle-school years are important times for providing environmental education programs to children.

The CCL report suggests offering students experiential activities such as outdoor programs,

field trips, and summer camps to stimulate a sense of empowerment and interest in environmental work.

Research suggests that both students and teachers may have a limited understanding of the diversity of jobs available in the en-

vironmental sector, and may even have stereotypical misconceptions about certain careers. They need better information about the sector and its career opportunities, CCL says.

Another challenge is the numerous career-related resources

available that can cause indecision and anxiety without proper guidance.

Students need help to navigate and make sense of all the information and to work through the career decision-making process, recommends the report.

W2 brings new dimension to Olympics coverage

W2 CONTINUED FROM P1 Oostende estimates that between 500-700 individuals, among them representatives of 35 news groups, have visited the centre daily since the Olympics began.

An environment of inclusivity pervades the centre, which is housed in a mixed-use revitalized building on West Hastings. User-pay, proceeds from W2's coffee shop, and cultural events provide the funds to pay for the space.

Participants pay a fee of \$180, which includes a number of perks such as complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvre as well as passes to daily receptions and speakers on a variety of topics. Souvenir swag, meeting space, printing services, fully wired computer workstations, and tickets to the Cultural Olympiad are also included.

On Feb. 22, planned strategically at the halfway point of the Games, W2 will host a much-anticipated media conference to draw attention to and reflect on their social media experiment.

Steve Anderson, co-founder of Fresh Media and co-organizer of the conference, says the event will "basically sort of take the temperature of...how social media is assessing the Olympics and the coverage of the Olympics and also the social issues that surround it."

"I think it's an exciting time to re-imagine what media and journalism is. That's the kind of ethos and feeling that we'll infuse into the Fresh Media conference and that's what excites me right

now."

Anderson compares W2, with its open platform for media production and collaboration, to a physical mirror image of the Internet.

"People can come and communicate and organize and produce media together and collaborate and participate in different types of media production and cultural events and things like that. So to me, if I was to imagine what the internet would look like in the physical world, it would pretty much be like this. It's just the fact that it's the way the tool is and its property is pretty much the same," he says.

Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, well known as one of the poorest neighborhoods in Canada, abounds with artists, activists, community leaders, and professionals. It has the attention of all levels of government, the private sector, Vancouver citizens, and now, with the Olympics, the world. It is no wonder that W2 visionaries like Oostende see its significance in a global context.

Although this is the first time new media has had an official presence at an Olympics, Oostende doubts there will be a second. It is expected that for the London Olympics in 2012, social media will be integrated.

"We have been looking at this moment in history between Beijing, where the government limited social media, and when we're going to London 2012, and likely the operations will be monetized and commercialized. So Vancouver



The W2 Culture + Media House provides a space and the tools for unaccredited media to cover the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. MARK M. SMITH

is providing the social media community an opportunity to kind of show its stuff uninhibited, and it's been an exciting ride," he says.

But W2 will live on, with a 9,000-square foot space in the

Woodwards building across the street from where it is now.

"We'll be running a social media center community and radio multi-platform media center and that's a long-term, 20-30 year plan," Oostende says.