Dr. Jim Harding, is a former Professor of Psychology at Lakehead, Environmental Studies at Waterloo, and Human Justice at Regina. Jim has played a role in the establishment and success of many local institutions, including the Regina Group for a Non-Nuclear Society, KAIROS, and the Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan. He has authored several books and writes a weekly column on sustainability (crowsnestecology.wordpress.com), speaking strongly for a peaceful, ecologically healthy, and nuclear-free society. Jim’s exemplary staying power, depth of research, and coherent analysis have empowered activists within these movements, while inspiring new champions. Recently Jim was elected mayor of the Village of Fort San, Saskatchewan where he remains active.

What do you feel are some of the biggest challenges currently facing our global community?

The climate crisis results from the unsustainable, interrelated energy system and corporate economy (the myth of perpetual growth, the emphasis on greed over need). This involves water and food security, environmental health and our growing vulnerabilities from extreme weather events. We need to continue to increase grass-roots pressure on our governments to quickly get onto a sustainable path.

Where do you find your inspiration?

It is about resilience as much as about inspiration. I am "refueled" by working with and learning from others. I try to make it a priority to keep grounded and not let my commitments overrule my inner balance. I keep my connection to the land, my family and to my community, which are all sources of insight and deep faith.

What advice would you give to today’s high-school graduates?

Keep learning from studying linked to action; build good relationships as you pursue activities; maintain activities even if they don’t jibe that well with your job/profession; take care of yourself so that you can stick with this and don’t burn out.