

# Canada, Nuclear Weapons, and You

## The Threat:

- Approximately 26,000 nuclear weapons exist today.
- Thousands of these weapons are on “high alert,” ready to be deployed within 30 minutes.
- Just 50 of them could kill over 200-million people.
- China is the only nuclear weapon state to adhere to a no-first-use policy.
- Nuclear weapon states are still funding research on new nuclear weapons and proposing new uses for nuclear weapons.
- Nuclear weapons have spread to Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and others have or are developing weapons-related technologies.

## The legal challenge:

- Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty obliges China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US to dismantle their nuclear arsenals.
- The International Court of Justice reaffirmed this obligation in 1996.

## Canadian disarmament efforts:

- Canada has not hosted nuclear weapons since 1984. The Government claims that “the only sustainable strategy for the future is the elimination of nuclear weapons entirely” and has been a leader in calling for nuclear disarmament.
- Since 2004, through the Global Partnership Program, Canada has paid for the dismantling of twelve nuclear-fueled Russian submarines, including ballistic-missile armed vessels.

- Canada has also been at the forefront of the effort to implement the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), signing the treaty in 1996, ratifying it in 1998, and hosting 16 monitoring facilities

But these efforts are marked by *contradictions*

## Canada, NATO, and nuclear weapons:

- NATO policy maintains that nuclear weapons are essential to maintain peace and deter attacks against its members.
- NATO retains the right to be the first to use nuclear weapons in response to a conventional attack on its members.
- Canada supports NATO’s nuclear weapons by helping to pay the cost of maintaining nuclear weapons in Europe for NATO use, and contributing to NATO’s nuclear policy as a member of the Nuclear Planning Group.

## Canada and the nuclear fuel cycle:

- The same technology that is used to enrich uranium to fuel civilian nuclear power plants can also be used to produce highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.
- Canada is the single-largest producer and supplier of uranium for the world market.
- Canadian industry has expressed interest in developing the capacity to enrich uranium for sale on the world market for civilian use.
- Canada has modified its support for multilateral controls over enrichment technology and other proliferation sensitive elements of the nuclear fuel cycle to

accommodate the Canadian interest in possible future enrichment.

- Canadian nuclear reactor technology was used to make India's first atomic bomb, tested in 1974
- As a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Canada supported an exception for India to access civil nuclear technology and fuel, a country that does not have all of its nuclear facilities under international safeguards.

## **George Shultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn on nuclear weapons:**

*“Nuclear weapons today present tremendous dangers, but also an historic opportunity...for reversing reliance on nuclear weapons globally as a vital contribution to preventing their proliferation into potentially dangerous hands, and ultimately ending them as a threat to the world.”*

*...the world is now on the precipice of a new and dangerous nuclear era. Most alarmingly, the likelihood that non-state terrorists will get their hands on nuclear weaponry is increasing. In today's war waged on world order by terrorists, nuclear weapons are the ultimate means of mass devastation. And non-state terrorist groups with nuclear weapons are conceptually outside the bounds of a deterrent strategy and present difficult new security challenges.”*

*(Wall Street Journal, 4 January 2007)*

# Take Action!

Canada must *consistently* support policies toward a nuclear weapons-free world. What can you do?

1. **Write** to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs:  
The House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
(No postage)
  - a) Call on Canada's involvement with NATO to be consistent with the legal obligation to eliminate nuclear weapons;
  - b) Ensure that Canada fully supports the multilateral control of proliferation sensitive elements of the nuclear fuel cycle;
  - c) Insist that Canada not support or participate in nuclear trade with India so long as it remains outside of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
  - d) Support the negotiation of the Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty;
  - e) Support the negotiation of a treaty banning the production, possession, and use of nuclear weapons.
2. Join the **International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** to demand an end to nuclear weapons through a nuclear weapons convention ([www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)).
3. Encourage your mayor to join **Mayors for Peace**: 70 Canadian cities are members of Mayors for Peace, a program to promote the

solidarity of cities around the world toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

4. Have your community designated as a **nuclear-weapons free city**: four Canadian cities, Vancouver, Victoria, Red Deer, and Montreal, are among hundreds globally that have declared themselves nuclear-weapons free.
5. Ask your Member of Parliament or local parliamentary candidate to join the **Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament (PNND)**: over 60 Canadian MPs are currently members of the PNND, which engages parliamentarians worldwide in nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament initiatives.
6. **Speak** to your family and friends about your concerns over nuclear weapons.
7. **Ask** your community group, church, or union to support the goals of the CNANW.
8. **Join or make a donation** to one of the Canadian organizations working to abolish nuclear weapons.



## CNANW Member Groups:

*Les Artistes pour la paix:*

[www.artistespourlapaix.com](http://www.artistespourlapaix.com)

*Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility:*

[www.ccnr.org](http://www.ccnr.org)

*Canadian Federation of University Women:*

[www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org)

*Canadian Peace Alliance:*

[www.acp-cpa.ca/en/index.html](http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/index.html)

*Canadian Pugwash Group*

[www.pugwashgroup.ca](http://www.pugwashgroup.ca)

*Canadian Voice of Women for Peace:*

<http://home.ca.inter.net/~vow>

*Lawyers for Social Responsibility:*

[www.peacelawyers.ca](http://www.peacelawyers.ca)

*Physicians for Global Survival:*

[www.pgs.ca](http://www.pgs.ca)

*Project Ploughshares:*

[www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca)

*Science for Peace:*

<http://scienceforpeace.sa.utoronto.ca>

*United Nations Association in Canada:*

[www.unac.org](http://www.unac.org)

*Veterans against Nuclear Arms:*

[www.vana.ca](http://www.vana.ca)

*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Canadian branch):*

[www.wilpf.int.ch/world/canada.htm](http://www.wilpf.int.ch/world/canada.htm)

*World Conference on Religion and Peace Canada:*

[www.wcrp.org/affiliates/worldwide](http://www.wcrp.org/affiliates/worldwide)

*World Federalist Movement (Canada):*

[www.worldfederalistscanada.org](http://www.worldfederalistscanada.org)