

TAKE ACTION!

Canada must consistently support policies toward a nuclear weapons-free world. **The time has come for Canada to end its reliance on nuclear weapons in NATO or otherwise!**

1. **WRITE** to Prime Minister Paul Martin, Minister of Foreign Affairs Pierre Pettigrew and your M.P. at:

The House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
(No postage)

Call on all Parliamentarians to:

- a) urgently call for de-alerting of all nuclear weapons and end the practise of "launch on warning",
- b) immediately ensure that Canada's involvement in NATO is consistent with our legal obligation to eliminate nuclear weapons and
- c) urgently support the negotiation of a treaty banning the production, possession and use of nuclear weapons.

2. **Speak** to your family and friends about your concerns over nuclear weapons.

3. **Ask** your community organization, church or union to endorse the goals of the CNANW.

4. **Join** and make a donation to one of the Canadian organizations working to abolish nuclear weapons.

FOR FURTHER RESOURCES:

www.abolishnuclearweapons.org

SHARE this brochure with your family, friends, faith group or office. Print out this and other resources from our website.

This brochure has been prepared by the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a network of 19 national membership groups, the goals of which have been endorsed by over 120 Canadian citizen's organizations. We would welcome an endorsement of our goals by your group!

CNANW Member Groups:

Les Artistes pour la paix
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility
Canadian Federation of University Women
Canadian Peace Alliance
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
Lawyers for Social Responsibility
Peace Research Institute Dundas
Peacefund Canada
Physicians for Global Survival
Project Ploughshares
Science for Peace
United Nations Association in Canada
Veterans against Nuclear Arms
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Canadian branch)
World Conference on Religion and Peace
World Federalist Movement (Canada)

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS ALERT!

Canada and Nuclear Weapons

The Canadian Network
to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons

www.abolishnuclearweapons.org

November, 2004

THE FACTS??

- The Cold War is over - but there exist about 28,000 nuclear warheads.
- Of these, over 4400 are "on alert" — ready to be launched in under 30 mins.
- Weapons on alert have a heightened risk of being used due to human or computer error.
- The International Court of Justice has found the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons, for all practical purposes, to be unlawful.
- The major nuclear weapon states have formally promised not to use nuclear weapons against those non-nuclear weapon states that adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In breach of this promise, the US has threatened the use of nuclear weapons against several non-nuclear states.
- Russia has abandoned its policy of 'no first use' of nuclear weapons.

In breach of its promise to eliminate nuclear weapons, the U.S. is funding research on new nuclear weapons and proposing new uses for nuclear weapons.

- Command and control may be particularly shaky in Russia due to poor management and satellite surveillance capability. No state, however, is free of the risk of errors...
- Nuclear weaponry has spread to Israel, India, Pakistan and possibly elsewhere.

THE CONTRADICTION:

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 is a leader in calling for nuclear disarmament in multilateral forums.

BUT Canada continues to participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

This alliance of countries have said they intend to maintain their nuclear weapons indefinitely.

CANADA & NATO'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Canada supports NATO's nuclear weapons in two ways:

1. Canada helps pay the costs of maintaining nuclear weapons in Europe for NATO use.
2. As a member of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group, Canada contributes to NATO's nuclear policy development. These Cold War-era policies state that:

- * the "supreme guarantee" of the security of NATO states is through the possession of nuclear weapons
- * NATO must retain the right to be the first to use nuclear weapons in any conflict and
- * NATO must retain nuclear weapons "for the foreseeable future",

Thus negotiations for the elimination of nuclear weapons - the legal obligation of all states under the Non-Proliferation Treaty - are not occurring.

What's the message from NATO?

While NATO tells the world that possession of nuclear weapons by Iraq, Iran, Libya, and North Korea is wrong, it insists that possession by NATO states is legitimate and necessary for true security. How can it be OK for some nations to have nuclear weapons and not OK for others?

CANADA SUPPORTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Canada also provides a variety of other kinds of support for U.S. nuclear forces, such as hosting port visits by nuclear-armed submarines; and making and exporting parts for nuclear/nuclear-capable delivery systems, such as bomber aircraft.

MISSILE DEFENCE— ENCOURAGES HIGH RISK, LARGER NUCLEAR ARSENALS

Indications are that Canada may join the US missile defence system. This system of interceptors is being designed to shoot down incoming missiles. It may encourage other states either to build more or retain their existing nuclear warheads in order to overwhelm the interceptors.

Missile defence also may encourage other nuclear states to keep more missiles on high alert, thus making an accidental war more likely.

This "defence" may halt or slow progress toward de-alerting of nuclear weapons and toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Arundhati Roy on Nuclear Weapons

"The nuclear bomb is the most anti-democratic, anti-national, anti-human, outright evil thing that man has ever made. If you are religious, then remember that this bomb is Man's challenge to God. It's worded quite simply: We have the power to destroy everything that You have created.

"If you're not religious, then look at it this way. This world of ours is four thousand, six hundred million years old. It could end in an afternoon."

("The End of Imagination",
The Guardian, August 1, 1998.)