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CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C.,
M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons office
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

September 27, 2022

RE: Canadian Voice of Women for Peace call on the federal government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and release a feminist foreign policy

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Joly,

This past September 26th we celebrated the 8th International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which is more important than ever given the current heightened danger of a nuclear war. It is for this reason that the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) is writing to urge you to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We are also raising our opposition to the planned F-35 procurement and our concern that this warplane will violate Canada's commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists shows that humanity is at 100 seconds to midnight, though that was set before the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The recent failure of the 10th review conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, making it the second failed review conference in a row, has resulted in a reliance on the 2010 review conference action plan. This is in stark contrast to the First Meeting of State Parties for the TPNW which successfully produced the Vienna Declaration and a 50-point Vienna Action Plan.

Today, there are 91 states are signatories and 68 states have ratified the TPNW each committing to not only aid in the universalization of the TPNW but also to aid those who have been impacted by nuclear weapons and testing, environmental remediation and for the inclusion and cooperation of stakeholders and scientists in the implementation of the action plan. In addition, it is the first international treaty on nuclear weapons to address gender and nuclear weapons. The TPNW aligns with Canada's purported commitment to a feminist foreign policy. As a feminist peace organization, VOW appeals to your government to become a state party.

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace founded in 1960.
A national & international network of women working to help
build a world founded on peace and justice for all.

Consultative Status with the
United Nations – ECOSOC
Economic & Social Council

Honourary Board Members:

Jean Augustine, Kim Phuc, Judy Rebick, Metta Spencer, Mary Wynne-Ashford and LeeAnn McKenna

We must consider the impacts that nuclear weapons have on both communities and the environment from production to dismantlement. In particular, they disproportionately and adversely affect Indigenous peoples with the location of testing, uranium mines and nuclear fuel dumping. Not to mention the devastation the detonation of any nuclear weapon would have on the environment, further exacerbating climate change. There are still 13, 000 nuclear weapons on the earth, and the use of any one of them would cause irreparable damage if not a nuclear war. The threat of nuclear weapons is an issue we cannot afford to ignore. VOW is calling on your government to sign and ratify the TPNW and show international leadership for disarmament.

Finally, we are concerned that the federal government's planned purchase of the F-35 heightens the nuclear risk and violates Canada's commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The F-35 is intended as a first-strike fighter jet and is a delivery system for nuclear weapons. Since its inception, the F-35 was designed to carry a nuclear weapon, the B61-12, in its bomb bay. The B61-12 is a 700-pound thermonuclear gravity bomb. It is a variable yield that ranges from 0.3 to 50 kilotons (kt). The bomb's maximum yield of 50-kilotons is the equivalent of 50,000 tons of TNT. This is more than twice the yield of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima (18 kt TNT) and Nagasaki (19 kt TNT). Both the 2010 and the 2018 U.S. Nuclear Posture Reviews affirmed the central role that the F-35 plays in American and NATO nuclear weapons strategies. Thus, if Canada purchases the F-35, it could put our country in violation of the NPT that prohibits the transfer of nuclear weapons and requires progress on nuclear disarmament.

Would you please respond to our concerns about why Canada is not joining the TPNW and the nuclear risks of the F-35?

We look forward to your reply. We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns. We can be reached at info@vowpeace.org or by phone: 416-603-7915. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Rohleder
Peace Campaigner, VOW

Sources:

Doomsday Clock (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, January 20, 2022)

https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/#nav_menu

Draft Vienna Declaration of the 1st Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (UNODA, June 2022)

https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_8-Draft-Declaration.pdf

Draft Vienna Action Plan (UNODA, June 2022)

https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.CRP_7-Draft-Action-Plan-new.pdf

Soaring: The Harms and Risks of Fighter Jets and Why Canada Must Not Buy a New Fleet (2022) https://wilpfcanda.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/03-Harms-of-Fighter-Jets-Report_Final.pdf

ABOUT: The Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) was established in 1960 and is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization comprised of a network of diverse women across the country. VOW has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every year takes a delegation of women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference in New York. For over 60 years, VOW has tirelessly advocated for a world without war. VOW stands for a feminist peace based on nonviolence, disarmament, diplomacy and common security with gender equality. For more information about VOW, please visit: <http://vowpeace.org>

**A feminist foreign policy is
impossible with
nuclear weapons.**

**CANADIAN WOMEN CALL ON THE TRUDEAU
GOVERNMENT TO SIGN
THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS
AND SHOW LEADERSHIP ON DISARMAMENT.**



CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

#DisarmamentAgendaForCanada
www.vowpeace.org/disarmament/