

RESOLUTION OF THE BC PROVINCIAL PEACE AND DISARMAMENT SUMMIT

May 13, 2017

Preamble

AWARE of the International Day of Peace established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981;

CONSCIOUS of the UNESCO programs for peace education, and of the role of theatre and song;

RECALLING the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (General Assembly resolution, 1984);

RECALLING ALSO the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind [humanity], (General Assembly resolution, 1975);

CONCERNED THAT Canada has, in Bill C-51 (now the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015), misconstrued security as being militarized security;

AFFIRMING THAT “*We must re-appropriate the word “security” and not allow it to be distorted by the military.*” (Dr. Ursula Franklin, 1985); and the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) agreed to in 2013, provide a basis for security

BELIEVING THAT job creation, placement, and skills training can bring about a fair and just transition that protects jobs and the environment, while ensuring the livelihood of those affected by the process of reducing military spending and unsound environmental policies;

CONCERNED ALSO that the glorification of militarism persists, and that states have concocted such pretexts for war, and for the occupation of other states, as: “human security” (Iraq 1991), “humanitarian intervention” (Kosovo, 1999), “self-defence” (Afghanistan 2001), “pre-emptive/preventive attack” (Iraq, 2003) “responsibility to protect” (Haiti, 2004, Libya, 2011) or “will to intervene” (Mali, 2013);

DISMAYED THAT states continue to use “just war theory” to justify aggression;

RECALLING THAT under Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, “any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law”;

RECALLING THAT although the global community has agreed to the reduction of military budgets, both the Senate of Canada and NATO have pressed Canada to increase its military budget to 2% of GDP;

AWARE THAT the Canadian Pension Plan invests in corporations that contribute to war and conflict, and to the destruction of the ecosystem;

ALARMED THAT Canada has permitted nuclear-powered and nuclear-arms-capable vessels to enter Canadian waters and to berth in Canadian harbours, and that Canada permits war games such as “Trident Fury” off the BC Coast;

ALARMED ALSO THAT all permanent members of the UN Security Council are nuclear weapon states, and that their veto violates the “the sovereign equality of states,” a fundamental principle enshrined in the UN charter;

DISTURBED THAT Canada is a member of NATO, an alliance with policies which violate Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and contravene some of the NPT’s thirteen steps towards the elimination of nuclear weapons;

CONSIDERING THAT states have undertaken to ban weapons of mass destruction and numerous “conventional weapons” such as landmines and cluster bombs, and hopefully soon lethal autonomous weapons (killer robots);

FULLY AWARE THAT Canada has been complicit in the use of depleted uranium and drones, and that Canada continues to sell uranium to nuclear weapons states, ignoring the “fungibility” principle;

AWARE THAT under article 35 of the Geneva Protocol 1 (1977), it is prohibited to employ weapons, projectiles, and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering;

AWARE ALSO that that Canada’s annual Global Defence & Security Trade Show (CANSEC) has over the years exhibited weapons that would violate Article 35 <http://coat.ncf.ca/ARMX/cansec/topCANSEC.htm>;

MINDFUL of the Montreal Declaration for a Nuclear-Fission-Free-World;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Provincial Peace and Disarmament Summit urge the Government of Canada to:

- 1) Promote the International Day of Peace, and work towards becoming a non-aligned state.
- 2) Support Canada’s freedom and independence from foreign powers, beginning with policy independence on all military, economic, and environmental matters.
- 3) Encourage the provinces to promote peace education.

- 4) Promote non-violent resolution of conflict, and develop government architecture to promote peace.
- 5) Promote the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace and call upon UNESCO to further the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind. [humanity]. And call upon all states to comply with the Convention Against Torture (CAT), and not redefine it.
- 6) Repeal Bill C-51 (the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015) and, in pursuit of common security:
 - (a) Seek peace and disarmament by re-allocating military expenses and delegitimizing war;
 - (b) Promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights, including: labour rights; civil and political rights; indigenous rights; women's rights, social and cultural rights (the right to food, housing, safe drinking water and sanitation); the right to education; the right to universally accessible, not-for-profit health care; and the right to water and sanitation. And to make a firm commitment to implement the SDGs
 - (c) Preserve, conserve, and protect the environment, considering the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, and make a commitment to reduce GHGs by 20% below 1990 by 2020
 - (d) Reduce Canada's ecological footprint, and eliminate unsustainable and excessive consumption.
 - (e) Implement socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, energy, and transportation policies; allocate enough resources for a fair and just transition away from unsound environmental policies and excessive military spending. And above all seriously address climate change.
- 7) Urge states to cease "propaganda for war," prohibit war games, refrain from moving their military close to hostile states, and eliminate foreign bases.
- 8) Cease using pretexts for war and occupation; work to de-legitimize war and occupation, and cease glorifying war—especially the First World War.
- 9) Acknowledge that given the social, environmental, health, human rights, and economic consequences of war, under no condition or circumstance is war legal or just.
- 10) Respect the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice.
- 11) Respect the 1976 commitment at Habitat I that "the misuse of funds on the military must end," resist the NATO demand for Canada's military budget to rise to 2% of GDP, begin a phased reduction of global military spending, starting with a 50 % reduction immediately, and emphatically reject the Senate Report; "Military Underfunded: The Walk Must Match the Talk."
- 12) Require the Canada Pension Plan to divest from corporations that foster militarism, contribute to climate change, or violate common security.
- 13) Prohibit nuclear-armed and nuclear-capable vessels from entering Canadian waters or berthing in Canadian ports.
- 14) Respecting the fundamental principle of the Charter of the United Nations—the sovereign equality of all states—lobby to dismantle the UN Security Council and propose that UN decisions be made by the General Assembly.
- 15) Withdraw from NATO by invoking Article 13 of NATO Charter, and call for the disbanding of NATO.
- 16) Until Canada has so withdrawn, declare, "Canada will not be bound by NATO's Article 5 in the event of hostilities resulting from the reckless, provocative, or illegal actions of our allies or their proxies."
- 17) Call upon all states to sign and ratify all the conventions related to banning weapons of mass destruction, to enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance, to participate in the current negotiations of a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, and to vote in favour of the treaty.
- 18) Prohibit the use of drones, and strongly support implementing the resolution to ban the use of depleted uranium.
- 19) End the sale of uranium to nuclear weapons states.
- 20) Support the international campaign to halt the development or deployment of lethal autonomous weapons.
- 21) Discontinue Canada's Global Defence & Security Trade Show (CANSEC).
- 22) Endorse the Montreal Declaration for a Nuclear-Fission-Free World.
- 23) Reinvest Canada in diplomatic actions to bring about universalization of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines, including the reappointment of a Canadian Mine Action Ambassador and the renewal of the Canadian Landmine Action Fund.