

## CALL TO CANADIANS

### *Understanding the Urgency of Nuclear Disarmament*

As long as nuclear weapons exist they will one day be used. Nuclear arsenals remain enormous, nuclear capabilities are spreading, and the likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons is growing. Canada, a nation that has a reputation for promotion of international cooperation, should exercise its moral authority, connect with like-minded states and insist on real progress toward an ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. Nuclear weapons are targeted at cities, in gross violation of the human rights of their citizens. In spite of the real and serious threat of a nuclear attack, accidental or deliberate, Canadian political parties attach low importance to nuclear policy development. Widespread determination to end this threat must develop in governments at all levels, academic institutions, corporations, non-government organizations (NGOs) and the general public. Public opinion ultimately shapes political action in democratic countries. It is imperative for many Canadians to become informed about the *present* peril of nuclear weapons

This year commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Pugwash Conferences, which subsequently became a worldwide peace movement. The **Canadian Pugwash Group**<sup>1</sup>, at a meeting with 5 Canadian peace groups<sup>2</sup> in Pugwash Nova Scotia on July 8, 2007, adopted this **Call to all Canadians**.

- Engage the mass media. Launch a sustained movement for public understanding of the grave perils of nuclear weapons – immoral, and declared illegal by the International Court of Justice. When the public becomes aware that they are the targets, then they will insist on action from their decision makers.
- “Remember your humanity and forget the rest” quoting from the Russell – Einstein Manifesto, the founding document of the Pugwash movement.
- Engage youth in the process, as participants and decision makers. Introduce in school curricula, information relating to the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, so as to bring home the immediate and long term disastrous impact of a nuclear war.
- Start a nuclear peril literacy movement, so that the climate for ending nuclear proliferation and eliminating nuclear weapons can be generated.
- Recognize the interconnectedness of global threats. Because of the multi-dimensional threats posed to human security by climate change, and the instability in global affairs that will result, it is vital to remove the threat of nuclear weapons *now* and avoid the risk that some nation will instigate a nuclear exchange.
- Encourage and support Canadian Mayors in joining Mayors for Peace, led by Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima.
- Appeal for action *now*, **from every level of society and government in Canada**; insist on clearly demonstrated progress on these urgent matters.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Pugwash (CPG) is the national affiliate of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. The organization and its founder Sir Joseph Rotblat received the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize.

<sup>2</sup> **Pugwash Peace Exchange, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Science for Peace, Physicians for Global Survival (Canada), Halifax Peace Coalition, Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

## *The Urgency of Nuclear Disarmament*

A timetable for the global community

### **Canadians must urge their government to lead:**

- 2007: Canada takes the lead in pressing for a review of NATO nuclear weapons policies – NATO must bring its policies into harmony with the Non Proliferation Treaty, which requires step by step disarmament.
- 2007: Nuclear Weapons States reduce the risk of accidental nuclear catastrophe by de-alerting the *thousands* of nuclear weapons now on quick reaction alert, capable of being computer-signal launched within a few minutes of apparent detection of an incoming missile.
- 2007: Canadian government presses the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) to: - (1)Respect commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); (2) Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); (3)Conclude an equitable Fissile Materials Cut Off Treaty (FMCT); and (4)end all research relating to the development of new nuclear weapons.
- Within 12 months: All nations with nuclear weapons adopt a legally mandatory policy of “no first use”.
- Within 12 months: Avoid prospects for nuclear terrorism and adventurism; NWS secure all (presently unprotected) nuclear fissile material, by implementing the concrete steps proposed by Pugwash for the elimination of highly enriched uranium
- Perpetually, starting in 2007: Adhere to the Treaty on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Desist from space weaponization, so that global citizens are not held hostage to the aggressive stance of a few nations.
- By 2010: Conclude a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) outlining a time frame for getting to *Zero*.

*“Any possession of weapons designed to cause the massive annihilation of human beings is wrong and cannot be made right by specious arguments regarding deterrence. We have reached the point where no single state can operate alone; we must work together to create global security and to prevent global destruction. The public of Canada and around the world are grossly uninformed as to the dire situation we all face, which has been compared to being asleep at the controls of a fast moving aircraft that is running rapidly out of fuel.”* Senator Romeo Dallaire, April 17, 2007, speaking in the Canadian Senate to his Motion Urging Government to Take Leading Role in Reinvigorating Nuclear Disarmament

*“Acknowledge that the lowest possible level of nuclear weapons consistent with national security is Zero”* Prof. Walter Dorn, Chair, Canadian Pugwash Group, July 8, 2007

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