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## **JOINT SUBMISSION TO THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF CANADA**

### **UPR Working Group's 44th session 2023**

April 2023

#### **Introduction**

This submission presents concerns and recommendations of the Canadian section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF Canada) and the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace's (VOW) relating to the upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Canada.

WILPF Canada is a membership-led organization committed to feminist peace, social justice, and gender equity. We are a non-partisan, non-governmental organization with members across the country. We are the national section of WILPF, which is the world's longest standing women peace organization having been founded in 1915, with National Sections and Groups covering every continent. Two of our leaders, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch, won the Nobel Peace Prize. Web site: [wilpfcanda.ca](http://wilpfcanda.ca)

VOW is the largest national feminist peace organization with members and chapters across the country. VOW was established in 1960 and is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization comprised of a diverse network of women. VOW's main office is in Toronto. VOW runs many campaigns related to women, peace, disarmament and anti-militarism. VOW has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every year brings a delegation of Canadian women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference. 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 equity. Web site: <http://vowpeace.org>

#### **I. Rising military spending diverts public funds and undermines economic and social rights**

Canada's rising military spending is diverting public resources away from urgent social, economic and environmental programs that are needed to improve the standard of living of the population. This is at odds with Canada's human rights obligations, including under art. 2.1 of the International Covenant on

Economic, Social and Cultural rights, to take the necessary steps “to the maximum of its available resources” for the full realisation of the rights under the Covenant.”<sup>1</sup>

Since 2014, Canada’s military spending has increased by 70% to \$35 billion (CAD) annually, which is 1.2% of GDP according to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) latest *Defence Expenditures* report.<sup>2</sup> The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) ranked Canada as 13th highest in the world in its latest report *Trends in World Military Spending for the year 2021*.<sup>3</sup> NATO’s demand that allies meet or exceed the 2% GDP target and Canada’s defence policy are the main drivers of Canada’s ever increasing military expenditures.

In 2017, the Canadian government released its defence policy, *Strong, Secure, Engaged* (SSE).<sup>4</sup> It is a plan to spend over \$553 billion on the military over the next 20 years to buy new weapon systems like fighter jets, armed drones and attack helicopters, build new warships, and recruit more soldiers to maintain “high-end warfighting.” SSE is heavily influenced by Canada’s membership in NATO, the U.S.-led nuclear-armed military alliance, and in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the partnership with the U.S. on continental defence.

In Budget 2023, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland announced an additional \$55 billion increase for National Defence to meet Canada’s NATO and North American Aerospace Defense Command’s (NORAD) commitments over the next twenty years.<sup>5</sup> As well, the federal government will spend \$19 billion deal for fossil fuel powered F-35 fighter jets, \$6.3 billion for new advanced air-to-air missiles for the fighter jets, and \$7 billion for new military infrastructure for the fighter jet fleet. Canada’s fighter jet procurement is the second most expensive procurement in Canadian history.

According to the *Public Accounts of Canada* for 2022, the budget for the Department of National Defence last year was \$29 billion. By contrast, Canada spent only \$2.9 billion for the Department of Global Affairs, \$2 billion for the Department of Environment and Climate Change, and \$52 million for the Department of Women, Gender Equality and Youth (grants to women’s programs were \$177 million).<sup>6</sup> Worse still, the federal government has not provided adequate funding to fully implement

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<sup>1</sup> Article 2.1 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights>.

<sup>2</sup> NATO Defence Expenditures report, 2022: [https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/220627-def-exp-2022-en.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/220627-def-exp-2022-en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> SIPRI, Trends in World Military Expenditures: [https://sipri.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/fs\\_2204\\_milex\\_2021\\_0.pdf](https://sipri.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/fs_2204_milex_2021_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Canada, 2017, Strong Secure Engaged, Defence Policy: <http://dgpapp.forces.gc.ca/en/canada-defence-policy/docs/canada-defence-policy-report.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Canada, Budget 2023: <https://www.budget.canada.ca/2023/pdf/budget-2023-en.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Public Accounts of Canada, 2022, Volume II, Table 2A: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/cpc-pac/2022/vol2/s1/rcec-reet-eng.html>; and Public Accounts of Canada, 2022, Volume II, chapter Women, Gender Equality and Youth: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/cpc-pac/2022/pdf/2022-vol2-eng.pdf>.

the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action* and the *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.<sup>7</sup>

Furthermore, the Canadian government has not met its pledge to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to help developing countries.<sup>8</sup> Canada's combined ODA fluctuates between \$5 billion and \$8 billion annually including a paltry \$1 billion for climate financing.<sup>9</sup> This level of ODA at the high end is .31% of GNI. In 2017, the federal government announced Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy of \$150 million over five years to support local women's organizations in at least 30 countries.<sup>10</sup> However, last month, the Auditor General tabled a report that concluded that Global Affairs Canada was unable to show how its Feminist International Assistance Policy had contributed to improving gender equality in these countries.<sup>11</sup>

### **Recommendations:**

1. Undertake a gender-responsive and human rights-based analysis of the impacts of increasing the military budget, in consultation with women's organizations in Canada. Conduct a parliamentary inquiry including public consultations on military spending.
2. Reduce and re-allocate military spending to urgent social programs, environmental protection and climate action, and ODA thereby ensuring social cohesion, gender equity and women and girls' human rights.

## **II. Military spending and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) harming Indigenous communities' right to land and housing**

In Budget 2023, the Canadian government announced \$38.6 billion over 20 years to invest in the modernization of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), which means new military infrastructure in the northern territories and on Air Force bases across the country. NORAD modernization will lead to the upgrading of radar sites across the north, which were severely

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<sup>7</sup> See: Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry <https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>; Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/> and ongoing tuberculosis health issue in Inuit communities" <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/federal-budget-2023-tuberculosis-funding-mistake-1.6797366>

<sup>8</sup> OECD (2023) The 0.7% ODA/GNI target - a history: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/the07odagnitarget-ahistory.htm>

<sup>9</sup> Government of Canada, News, 2023: <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/02/canada-announces-funding-for-public-engagement-in-international-development.html>; and <http://cidpnsi.ca/canadas-foreign-aid-2012-2/>; and Canada (2022) Report to Parliament on the Government of Canada's International Assistance; <https://www.international.gc.ca/transparency-transparence/assets/pdfs/international-assistance-report-rapport-aide-internationale/2020-2021-vol1-v2-en.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Global Affairs Canada, Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy: [https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/06/canada\\_s\\_feministinternationalpolicy.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/06/canada_s_feministinternationalpolicy.html)

<sup>11</sup> Auditor General of Canada to the Parliament of Canada (2023) Spring Report: [https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr\\_20230327\\_e\\_44232.html?utm\\_source=BCCIC+Membership&utm\\_campaign=6a8d47ecd9-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_01\\_30\\_08\\_26\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_eb3bf379a5-6a8d47ecd9-561763837](https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr_20230327_e_44232.html?utm_source=BCCIC+Membership&utm_campaign=6a8d47ecd9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_01_30_08_26_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_eb3bf379a5-6a8d47ecd9-561763837)

contaminated in the past.<sup>12</sup> As well, many military bases like CFB Cold Lake in Alberta and CFB Goose Bay, were established on land illegally expropriated from Indigenous communities by the federal government.<sup>13</sup> Many of the Indigenous reserves around the bases have unsafe housing and unpaved roads. In Nunavut, many Indigenous people live in dilapidated housing and are suffering from poverty and health issues. Please refer to this important 2020 report, *Sick of Waiting: A Report on Nunavut's Housing Crisis*, by former Member of Parliament for Nunavut Mumilaaq Qaqqaq.<sup>14</sup> Along with the Indigenous housing crisis, there is also more homelessness including tent encampments across Canada.<sup>15</sup> Unfortunately, the federal government did not make any substantive financial commitment for housing in its latest budget.<sup>16</sup> The Canadian government is overspending for the military and underspending for affordable housing, health care and other social welfare programs.

### **Recommendations:**

3. Cease the militarization of Indigenous lands including through new military infrastructure in the northern territories;
4. Ensure Indigenous Peoples' right to housing, health care and other social welfare programs by decreasing military spending and increasing federal funding for Indigenous communities.

### **III. Increase of arms exports and lack of diplomacy and disarmament**

In 2021, the value of Canadian arms transfers increased by almost 30% to approximately \$2.7 billion, according to Global Affairs Canada's latest report on *The Exports of Military Goods*.<sup>17</sup> SIPRI ranked Canada 16<sup>th</sup> highest in the world for arms transfers during the period 2018-2021.<sup>18</sup> Canadian arms exports undermine human rights and harm people in other countries. For example, Canada exports weapons to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel among many other countries despite risks of or evidence amounting to serious violations of international humanitarian law.<sup>19</sup> There

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<sup>12</sup> Sandro Contenta (2012) "DEW Line: Canada is cleaning up pollution caused by Cold War radar stations in the Arctic," [https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2012/08/04/dew\\_line\\_canada\\_is\\_cleaning\\_up\\_pollution\\_caused\\_by\\_cold\\_war\\_radar\\_stations\\_in\\_the\\_arctic.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2012/08/04/dew_line_canada_is_cleaning_up_pollution_caused_by_cold_war_radar_stations_in_the_arctic.html)

<sup>13</sup> WILPF Canada (2022) "Fighter Jets, Air Force Bases and Military Contamination on Indigenous Land in Canada," Secretariat of the Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights): [https://wilpfcanda.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WILPF-Canada-Submission\\_Militarization-of-Indigenous-land\\_2022.pdf](https://wilpfcanda.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WILPF-Canada-Submission_Militarization-of-Indigenous-land_2022.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, "Sick of Waiting: A Report on Nunavut's Housing Crisis," <https://www.aptnnews.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Qaqqaq.HousingReport.2021-1.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Alanna Pickerell (2023) "New research suggests Canada's homeless crisis is bigger than current data shows," CTV news: <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/new-research-suggests-canada-s-homeless-crisis-is-bigger-than-current-data-shows-1.6292751>

<sup>16</sup> CAEH (2023) "Budget 2023 ignores Canada's worsening housing and homelessness crises, fails to support those in greatest need." <https://caeh.ca/budget-2023-ignores-canadas-worsening-housing-and-homelessness-crises-fails-to-support-those-in-greatest-need/>

<sup>17</sup> Global Affairs Canada (2021) Exports of Military Goods, released May 2022: [https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/assets/pdfs/controls-controles/reports-rapports/military\\_goods-2021-marchandises\\_militaires-en.pdf](https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/assets/pdfs/controls-controles/reports-rapports/military_goods-2021-marchandises_militaires-en.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> SIPRI, Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2022: [https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/2303\\_at\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2022\\_v2.pdf](https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/2303_at_fact_sheet_2022_v2.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Amnesty International and Project Ploughshares (2021) "No Credible Evidence": Canada's flawed analysis of arms exports to Saudi Arabia": [ris](#); and Michael Bueckert (2022) *Arming Apartheid: Canada's Arms Exports to Israel*, CJPME

is evidence that Canada's arms exports to Saudi Arabia have been used in the 8-year long war in Yemen prolonging the humanitarian crisis in the country.<sup>20</sup>

WILPF's 2020 submission, *The impact of Canada's arms transfers on children's rights*, raised questions on the impact of Canadian weapons transfers on children's human rights, looking in particular at the cases of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Nigeria and the Philippines. The report drew attention to the legal loopholes and transparency concerns with respect to the operation of Canadian weapons manufacturers in other countries, which continue today.<sup>21</sup> Though Canada is a party to the *Arms Trade Treaty* (ATT), it is not following the requirements of the treaty as it should in relation to the protection of human rights or international humanitarian law.

In addition, from 2017, Canada began supplying ammunition and military equipment to the Ukrainian security forces that intensified the civil unrest in the country undermining the Minsk Agreements.<sup>22</sup> Over the past year, since the start of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, Canada has sent over \$1.5 billion worth of shells, sniper rifles, machine guns, howitzer artillery guns, rocket launchers, hand grenades, missiles, an advanced missile system and tanks to the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU).<sup>23</sup> Tens of thousands of Ukrainian and Russian soldiers have been injured and killed, thousands of civilians have been injured and killed, and millions of Ukrainians are displaced and impoverished especially women and children and the LGBTQI people.<sup>24</sup> There also are many distressing reports that the small arms coming into Ukraine are being used in cases of domestic violence.<sup>25</sup> Canada has not established any independent, public oversight of the arms and military aid that it is transferring to Ukraine, such as a parliamentary inquiry or a position like the U.S. Inspector General.<sup>26</sup> Moreover, Canada has not called for a ceasefire and negotiations to end the conflict.

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report: [https://assets.nationbuilder.com/cjpme/pages/6073/attachments/original/1649696945/Final\\_-\\_Arming\\_Apartheid\\_-\\_CJPME\\_-\\_2022-04-13.pdf?1649696945](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/cjpme/pages/6073/attachments/original/1649696945/Final_-_Arming_Apartheid_-_CJPME_-_2022-04-13.pdf?1649696945)

<sup>20</sup> Amnesty International and Project Ploughshares (2021) "No Credible Evidence: Canada's flawed analysis of arms exports to Saudi Arabia: [https://www.amnesty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NoCredibleEvidence\\_EN.pdf](https://www.amnesty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NoCredibleEvidence_EN.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> WILPF, *The impact of Canada's arms transfers on children's rights*, submission to the 87th pre-session working group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: [https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/att/WILPF\\_CRC\\_June2020.pdf](https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/att/WILPF_CRC_June2020.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Related to the civil conflict between the government and non-government controlled areas in Ukraine overseen by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission for Ukraine: <https://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine-closed>; and Tamara Lorincz (2022) "Canada, NATO fanning flames of war in Ukraine," <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/opinion/tamara-lorincz-canada-nato-fanning-flames-of-war-in-ukraine-100685615/>

<sup>23</sup> Canadian donations and military support to Ukraine: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/canadian-military-support-to-ukraine.html>

<sup>24</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2023) Ukraine: civilian casualty update 20 March 2023: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/03/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-20-march-2023>; AND Helen Cooper et al. (2023) "Soaring Death Toll Gives Grim Insight Into Russian Tactics," New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/02/us/politics/ukraine-russia-casualties.html>; and ReliefWeb (2022) Protection of LGBTQI+ people in the context of the response in Ukraine: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/protection-lgbtqi-people-context-response-ukraine>

<sup>25</sup> Jessie Williams (2023) "'This War Made Him a Monster.' Ukrainian Women Fear the Return of Their Partners," Time: <https://time.com/6261977/ukraine-women-domestic-violence/>

<sup>26</sup> Project Ploughshares (2023) "Five urgent questions about arms transfers to Ukraine," <https://www.ploughshares.ca/reports/five-urgent-questions-about-arms-transfers-to-ukraine>

## Recommendations:

5. Ensure that the relevant Canadian export authorities comply with Canada's obligations under, international law, including human rights treaties it is party to, and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Conduct and make public gendered impact assessments of arms transfers.
6. Take into full account Canada's international obligations including under international human rights and humanitarian law when providing arms to Ukraine and ensure democratic oversight over such decisions. Support peaceful resolution of conflicts including through the promotion of ceasefires and other non-violent measures.

## IV. Support of NATO's nuclear deterrence and procurement of dual capable F-35 Fighter Jets

In 2017, Canada boycotted the negotiations of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It also opted not to attend as an observer the First Meeting of the Parties of the TPNW in Vienna in 2022. The Canadian government has stated that it refuses to join the TPNW, because of its membership in NATO that relies on a dangerous nuclear deterrence.<sup>27</sup> Within NATO, Canada is part of the Nuclear Planning Group. Canada is the world's second largest producer of uranium and a supplier of uranium to the United States.<sup>28</sup> WILPF Canada and VOW are concerned about Canada's uranium exports (and exports of components for weapons systems) and how they might be used in the U.S. nuclear weapons modernization program.<sup>29</sup> The Canadian government only publishes limited information on exports of military goods to the U.S., something that impedes public and parliamentary oversight.<sup>30</sup>

In January of this year, Canada announced that it would buy 88 Lockheed Martin F-35 joint strike fighter jets for \$19 billion. Yet, the F-35 is a dual-capable fighter jet that is designed to carry the B61-12 tactical thermonuclear weapon. The F-35 fighter jets are an integral component of the U.S. nuclear architecture according to the 2022 U.S. Nuclear Posture Review.<sup>31</sup> With Canada's procurement of these F-35 fighter jets and the possibility of these warplanes carrying nuclear weapons for NATO operations, Canada may be in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT prohibits the transfer of nuclear weapons and requires progress on nuclear disarmament, which the F-35s do not facilitate.<sup>32</sup> Canada's

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<sup>27</sup> Canada (2018) *Canada and NATO: An Alliance forged in Strength and Reliability*, Report of the Standing Committee on National Defence:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/NDDN/Reports/RP9972815/nddnrp10/nddnrp10-e.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Government of Canada, Canada and Uranium, <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy/energy-sources-distribution/uranium-nuclear-energy/uranium-canada/about-uranium/7695>

<sup>29</sup> Asad Ismi and Kristin Schwartz (2008) "We're the Major Supplier of Uranium for Nuclear Weapons Canada is violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," CCPA: <https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/october-2008-were-major-supplier-uranium-nuclear-weapons>

<sup>30</sup> Canada (2021) *Exports of Military Goods*, Global Affairs Canada report: [https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/assets/pdfs/controls-controles/reports-rapports/military\\_goods-2021-marchandises\\_militaires-en.pdf](https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/assets/pdfs/controls-controles/reports-rapports/military_goods-2021-marchandises_militaires-en.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> United States (2022) 2022 Nuclear Posture Review:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/uploads.fas.org/2022/10/27113658/2022-Nuclear-Posture-Review.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> Tamara Lorincz (2022) *Soaring: The Harms and Risks of Fighter Jets and Why Canada Must Not Buy a New Fleet*: [https://wilpfcanda.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/03-Harms-of-Fighter-Jets-Report\\_Final.pdf](https://wilpfcanda.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/03-Harms-of-Fighter-Jets-Report_Final.pdf)

involvement in NATO's nuclear deterrence, potential supply of uranium for nuclear weapons, and procurement of dual-capable fighter jets risk a nuclear escalation and threatens human rights and security.

### **Recommendations:**

7. Join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; work with other states parties to agree on and implement a plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons as required by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; and cancel the F-35 procurement.
8. Ensure transparency and democratic oversight over exports of military goods to the U.S.

### **V. Failure to fully implement the Women Peace Security agenda**

Rising military spending and arms transfers impede Canada's implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda arising from UN Security Council resolution 1325.<sup>33</sup> Canada has failed to ensure women's meaningful participation and has failed to promote women's leadership for conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict recovery.<sup>34</sup> Canada's Foreign Minister has not met with Canadian women's peace groups since 2017 and has never replied to any of the letters sent by either submitting organization, WILPF Canada and VOW. More seriously, before Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly also refused to meet with her Russian counterpart to discuss Russia's draft dialogue for security guarantees to NATO countries that was released in December 2021, which may have prevented the war in Ukraine.<sup>35</sup>

Instead of conflict prevention as required by WPS, over the past two decades, Canada has repeatedly deployed armed force in other countries with disastrous results.<sup>36</sup> From 2002-2014, the Canadian military was engaged in NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan where Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) soldiers turned detainees over to torture and killed civilians including children.<sup>37</sup> The Canadian military covertly participated in the illegal United States-led war of aggression against Iraq from 2003 and sent CAF senior officers to command American troops.<sup>38</sup> In February 2004, Canada sent special forces to help overthrow with the U.S. and France the democratically-elected government of President Jean-

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<sup>33</sup> UN Security Council, Women, Peace and Security: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/women-peace-and-security/>

<sup>34</sup> There is no evidence that Canada engaged with women-led local initiatives to prevent military interventions and armed conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Haiti.

<sup>35</sup> Russia (2021) Foreign Ministry statement on dialogue with the United States and other Western countries regarding security guarantees: [https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1789855/](https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1789855/); and Press release on Russian draft documents on legal security guarantees from the United States and NATO: [https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1790809/](https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1790809/)

<sup>36</sup> Yves Engler (2020) *Stand on Guard for Whom? A People's History of the Canadian Military*: <https://blackrosebooks.com/products/engler-stand-on-guard>

<sup>37</sup> Craig Scott, Professor of Law (2017) Brief on the Investigation of Canadian Nationals for War Crimes And Crimes Against Humanity in Afghanistan: <https://nathanson.osgoode.yorku.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/BRIEF-TO-ICC-PROSECUTOR-BENSOUADA-C-Scott.pdf>; AND Reuters (2008) "Canada to investigate deaths of two Afghan children,"

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-afghan-canada-children-idUKN2839849120080728>

<sup>38</sup> Owen Schalk (2022) Debunking the myth of Canada's non-involvement in the Iraq war, Canadian Dimension: <https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/debunking-the-myth-of-canadas-non-involvement-in-the-iraq-war>; AND Canada and the Iraq War: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada\\_and\\_the\\_Iraq\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_and_the_Iraq_War)

Bertrand Aristide in Haiti.<sup>39</sup> In 2011, Canada commanded the NATO bombing of Libya that caused a devastating civil conflict and a humanitarian crisis with thousands of people fleeing the country and drowning in the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>40</sup> With the US coalition, Canada conducted thousands of airstrikes against Syria and Iraq destroying infrastructure and killing people from 2014-2016.<sup>41</sup> There has been no accountability or reparations that has been publicized for the human rights violations caused by Canada's military interventions abroad.

Furthermore, civil society women were never invited to participate in discussions to prevent or resolve these violent conflicts in which the Canadian government and military were directly involved even though this is required by Resolution 1325. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Haiti remain in crisis and the lives of women and girls were made much worse by these military interventions. Moreover, there is no mention of these CAF interventions and the harm done in either of Canada's two National Action Plans (NAP) for Women, Peace and Security.<sup>42</sup>

### **Recommendations:**

9. Implement the Women Peace and Security agenda commitments nationally and internationally with appropriate infrastructure, such as establishing an Ambassador for Disarmament, a Department of Peace and a Minister of Peace.

10. Meet with Canadian women's peace organizations and respond to their written communications.

11. Develop an Agenda for Peace and Disarmament in consultation with women's groups and the public. Invest in peace education, peace research, peacebuilding programs and disarmament nationally and internationally.

## **VI. Canada is not meeting climate targets and is procuring carbon-intensive weapon systems**

Canada's carbon reduction plan is "highly insufficient" and the country is not on track to meet its Paris Agreement pledge according to Climate Action Tracker.<sup>43</sup> The Office of the Auditor General of Canada also found that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have increased by 20% since 1990 to over 730

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<sup>39</sup> Editor (2010) "Joint Task Force 2: Canada's elite fighters," CBC News: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/joint-task-force-2-canada-s-elite-fighters-1.873657>

<sup>40</sup> Paul Koring (2011) "Canadian directing war in Libya calls it 'a knife-fight in a phone booth'," CBC News: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canadian-directing-war-in-libya-calls-it-a-knife-fight-in-a-phone-booth/article583250/>

<sup>41</sup> National Defence (2023) Operation IMPACT: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-impact.html>

<sup>42</sup> Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security: [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_development-enjeux\\_developpement/gender\\_equality-egalite\\_des\\_genres/cnap\\_wps-pnac\\_fps.aspx?lang=eng&\\_ga=2.154535804.55827995.1680388845-88221254.1662147819](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/cnap_wps-pnac_fps.aspx?lang=eng&_ga=2.154535804.55827995.1680388845-88221254.1662147819)

<sup>43</sup> Climate Tracker, Canada: <https://climateactiontracker.org/>

megatonnes/per year in 2021.<sup>44</sup> Canada has failed to meet every climate target set by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change over the past three decades.<sup>45</sup>

Among all federal departments and agencies, it is the military that has the largest carbon footprint.<sup>46</sup> The Department of National Defence including the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) consumes the most fossil fuel and is the largest emitter of GHGs. Carbon emissions from the military account for over 61% of all emissions by the federal government.<sup>47</sup> Yet, military emission reductions are absent from Canada's reports on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the federal GHG reduction plans. Canada must demilitarize for decarbonization.

Finally, Canada must design, implement and ensure that climate justice is in line with the United Nations' *International Decade of Peoples of African Descent, 2015–2024*.<sup>48</sup> As well, in 2021, Parliament passed the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP)*<sup>49</sup> The Act requires the federal government to implement UNDRIP and to “cooperate and consult in good faith” with Indigenous peoples. For climate justice, Canada must fulfill those obligations and provide funding to eliminate environmental racism, which is the disproportionate siting of polluting industries and other environmental hazards in Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities, and the uneven access to nature and environmental benefits in Canada. The achievement of climate justice requires racial, economic and gender justice.

## Recommendations

12. Protect those who are most affected by the impact of climate change and include local and Indigenous knowledge in climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. Fully implement the UNDRIP and eliminate environmental racism for climate justice.
13. Demilitarize to rapidly decarbonize to meet the Paris Agreement commitments.
14. Cancel the procurement of carbon-intensive weapons systems and invest in a green economy and a just transition.

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<sup>44</sup> Office of the Auditor General of Canada, Lessons Learned from Canada's Record on Climate Change: [https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att\\_\\_e\\_43947.html](https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att__e_43947.html)

<sup>45</sup> David Thurton (2022) “After years of missed targets, Liberals table their climate plan this week,” CBC News: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/climate-change-canada-emissions-1.6397776>

<sup>46</sup> Canada (2023) Government of Canada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/government-canada-greenhouse-gas-emissions-inventory.html>

<sup>47</sup> WILPF Canada (2021) Canada's Carbon Footprint: [https://wilpfcanda.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/01-Military-Emissions-and-Military-Expenditures\\_Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://wilpfcanda.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/01-Military-Emissions-and-Military-Expenditures_Fact-Sheet.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> United Nations (2014) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 November 2014

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N14/635/79/PDF/N1463579.pdf?OpenElement> (Justice 2(a) 17(b)); AND Programme of Activities for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, <https://www.un.org/en/observances/decade-people-african-descent/programme-activities>

<sup>49</sup> Canada, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (S.C. 2021, c. 14): <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/U-2.2/>