

glorifying war, producing armaments, developing militaries and spending billions of dollars preparing for war we will repeat the past and continue having traumatized soldiers in need of healing.

Organizations such as World Beyond War, Conscience Canada, Canadian Peace Initiative, Non-violent Peace Force, Project Ploughshares and many more promote peacemaking and life giving alternatives to war. They deserve recognition and media attention to further the War Amps motto "Never Again". As we remember we must also actively promote alternatives to war. If not, we will continue to repeat the past with the potential for even greater and more horrific trauma.

This evoked a reply from Ray Temmerman in the Free Press on November 23:

Ernie Wiens makes a good point in his letter. Around Remembrance Day, it would be good to have organizations such as World Beyond War, Conscience Canada, Canadian Peace Initiative, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Project Ploughshares and many more who promote peacemaking and life-giving alternatives to war begin a campaign titled something along the lines of "Lest we repeat."



Check out Conscience Canada's [Remembrance Day Education Kit](#)

See also [White Poppies for a culture of peace](#) for a more broadly focused Remembrance Day in Canada

Join Conscience Canada

Membership is open to anyone supporting CC's objectives.

No membership fee (donations welcome!)

Visit: www.consciencecanada.ca/membership

Let us know if you can get involved as a volunteer. We need website and newsletter contributors and new members for the CC board. Email us : info@consciencecanada.ca

So how did we get that way?

From The Personal Blog of World Citizen Garry Davis for November 10, 2009 (www.worldservice.org/gdblog.html)

What had to happen to us before we "good guys" could accept to become killers of fellow humans? What force or rationale could transform our very nature from benevolence to malevolence?

It is crystal clear to me now at age 88. We first have to be systematically and brutally humiliated.

Our sense of humanity has to be erased, mocked, denied in daily ritual. In "Boot" camp it's called "training". The myth of "win-lose" – which we had already learned in school – has to be driven into our very psyches, our "souls", if you will, where our own survival – and "reward" – would depend on eliminating "the enemy". . . . willingly we become robots, inhuman, ghouls in national uniforms. Killing even becomes a passion. or simply routine . . . the audience at home applauds when we are awarded medals, niggling reminders of our bloody mission. "Thank you for your service", we hear all around us. (Why not "Thank you for your killing"?) While inside, we cringe ashamed.

War Is Just a Four-Letter Word

Eric Unger

For anyone pondering the topic, it should be obvious that no war ever fought has produced the Eden it promised; an Eden in which all humans can live out their full potential. And it's unlikely any war ever will. In fact, it's not only improbable, it's impossible. Wise and honest contemplation should illustrate that international peace will never come as the result of a sufficient application of bombs and bullets, terror and torture.

The *first* thing lost in war is truth. So the truth that violence does not produce peace is replaced by the first lie: that peace will come if we just keep fighting. After that, all other truths can be tailored to whatever spin a particular side wants to pitch.

For example, the truth that war is waged so that money can be made (by political, economic, and military leaders) is disguised in the noble declaration that 'all we want is lasting peace.'

The *second* loss is freedom. This loss follows swiftly after the first lie is accepted as truth. The first to lose their freedom are those who voluntarily enlist as active combatants and set aside their personal schedules, their own hopes and dreams, to fight for the noble cause of freedom itself. Of course, those who are conscripted likewise lose their freedom. Then, as the recruits submit themselves to the indoctrination which is so absolutely essential to a successful boot camp, they themselves become the tools of destruction through which their side will do its best to destroy the freedoms of its enemies.

A *third* loss occurs when, after adequate military preparation, authorities conclude that they are strong enough to engage in open conflict and can cast aside the necessity of conversation. Open, armed, and planned conflict results in the loss of property as soldiers engage in what is euphemistically called the 'art' of war. Soldiers frantically apply their newly acquired skills in eliminating 'the enemy.' As they bomb, shoot, stab, and rape their way to military success, cities are lost and countrysides are ravaged.

Now, ranking the wretchedness of war-caused losses is, to be honest, meaningless. Too many things are lost, and in too rapid and random a succession. For any

individual human being, the loss of life might be considered by many to be the final loss. But throughout the destructive process of war, countless other losses occur. Human dignity is lost when the vanquished are paraded in shackles before the victors and when returning soldiers fail to find reasons to continue living. Families lose loved ones, friends lose relationships, gardens and fields lose their produce, clean summer winds bring radioactive toxins, and crystal clear waters are polluted.

When all is said and done, war is just a four-letter word: LOSS.

Divest, Disarm, Demilitarize

Conscience Canada will be part of an international coalition of people and groups who will be converging on Ottawa in May 2020 to say NO to

CANSEC – Canada's biggest annual weapons expo. [#NoWar2020: Divest, Disarm, Demilitarize](#) will include a conference, peace festival, art build, and nonviolent demonstration timed to confront CANSEC.

Mark your calendar. Join us in Ottawa from May 26-30, 2020 for this action, conference and peace fest. The focus will be on divesting from the armament industries, disarmament, military tax divestment, the negative impacts of war/militarism, the environmental footprint of militarism, reallocating military funds to human and environmental needs.

Save the Date

#NOWAR2020: DIVEST, DISARM, AND DEMILITARIZE

Conversion for a peaceful, green & just future

CONFERENCE & PEACE FEST

May 26-30, 2020 in Ottawa

An international coalition of individuals and organizations will be converging on Ottawa to say No to CANSEC, Canada's biggest Annual Weapons Expo. #CancelCANSEC

Stay tuned for details at...
bit.ly/nowar2020

Planning Committee:

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space | CANADIAN PEACE INITIATIVE | WORLD BEYOND WAR.org | Ottawa Kicking Grammes | PEACE MAGAZINE | Conscience Canada

A Vicious Vortex

Doug Hewitt-White

This is the season of hurricanes and I find myself pondering the churning forces of militarism and climate catastrophe. I feel these forces swirling and spinning around me. At first I thought in terms of a vicious circle. Each element leading onto and reinforcing the next – round and round on a merry-go-round. But this is clearly not fun time at the fair.

**Every
little
bit
helps**



We need your help.

Please consider making a donation to Conscience Canada so we can continue to work toward our goal of diverting taxes from war to peace.

Our work doesn't cost much. We are all volunteers. But there are expenses in.

- creating this newsletter
- preparing the yearly Peace Tax Return and overseeing the Peace Tax Trust Account
- attending workshops, forums, actions; collaborating on campaigns
- linking up with other anti-war peace groups who share our vision of not just working for peace but also not paying for war.

It doesn't cost much. But it does cost.

Interest paid on our Peace Tax Trust Account is a tiny help. But it doesn't cover what Conscience Canada needs to cover.

We don't need much. But we need. Consider making a donation.

You can use Pay Pal or credit card, just [click here](#). If you would like to donate via cheque, please address them to:

Conscience Canada, 515 Langs Dr., Unit J
Cambridge, ON N3H 5E4

Because we work to change legislation, donations are NOT eligible for a tax receipt.

This is not a circle but a vortex spiralling ever more tightly, spinning down and down to global doom.

Military preparedness, exercises and combat contribute huge amounts of CO2 to our atmosphere and ever worsening climate change. Our changing climate is inexorably leading to extensive drought, large scale coastal flooding, erratic destructive storms, ice cap melt, rising sea levels, crop failure, spreading uninhabitable desert regions, economic and social collapse. People will flee rising sea waters and drought-stricken heat-baked land. They will have no choice. They will have to migrate en masse to wherever they see some hope for survival.

Massive movement of peoples will spark chaos at borders, violent clashes of desperate people, and mushrooming civil unrest.

Governments will respond by heightening military preparedness, taking action, unleashing the military goliath. The armed forces themselves will be negatively impacted by flooding of coastal bases. Violent mega storms will damage military equipment and installations. Soldiers will need more training to provide emergency response as we experience more wildfires, more floods and more damaging weather events. Ever more resources will have to be expended on maintaining (let alone increasing) military capability to respond to outbreaks of violence arising from the climate conflagration.

There will inevitably be avaricious arms manufacturers, defense systems contractors, arms dealers throughout the globe, who will want to profit from growing unrest and violent desperation.

And what will be the likelihood of complex climate upheaval bringing about a shift in military thinking by the nuclear club? With enormous demands on shrinking resources, how much more attractive will be the idea of fighting and winning a short decisive nuclear war to impose the will of the corporate-industrial empire, to safeguard The Nation?

As Nick Buxton wrote in a 2015 [New Internationalist blog](#):

A close look at military climate change strategies reveals that their focus is on securing borders, protecting trade supply-

routes for corporations, controlling conflicts around resources and instability caused by extreme weather, and repressing social unrest. They turn the victims of climate change into 'threats' to be controlled or combated. There is no critical examination of the military's own role in enforcing a corporate-dominated fossil-fuel economy that has caused the climate crisis.

Disrupting the vortex

Where does hope lie? Facing this existential crisis of climate catastrophe we must recognize that we have an opportunity to break the mold, disrupt the military-industrial-security complex, break the war machine, build a new civilization based on sustainable common security.

So often when I have spoken to people about ending war, abolishing the military, I have condescendingly been told I am a pie-in-the-sky idealist. "Nice ideas Doug but in the real world none of that can work. Human nature is to grab a gun and defend what you have, defend your family, defend your country. In this hard world you have to be a realist!"

But today who are the realists, who the dreamers? We are in a vicious vortex. It is real. How can it be realistic to think the vortex can be stopped by more military adventures, more violence, more chaos? How credible can business as usual be? Is it not truly realistic to work unstintingly and passionately for a sustainable world, a de-nuclear world, for common just security? Only realists can save our planet, our home and all creatures living on it.

Let me end with this passage written by Nadia Colburn:

War and peace: which do you choose?

Being the mother of a son turned me into a pacifist not because I was an idealist, but because motherhood made me a realist.

All parents try to keep their children safe. But the responsibility of raising children can't all be left to parents. It's no wonder that so many young men turn to violence when everywhere they look, they are met with confusing messages that celebrate violence and equate violence with manhood.

Can we provide an alternative voice and vision? . . .

A B O U T

This newsletter is produced by Conscience Canada, an NGO working since 1978 to:

- increase Canadians' awareness of the connection between taxes and war;
- divert taxes away from war and to peace work;
- support creative non-violent conflict prevention and resolution;
- press for military tax re-direction legislation in Canada.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of Conscience Canada

This newsletter is available on-line at www.consciencecanada.ca. If you are receiving a printed copy, please let us know if you would prefer the e-version (in colour, less expensive!).

B O A R D

Scott Albrecht, Dave Bechtel,
Charlie Diamond, Mary Groh,
Doug Hewitt-White, Murray Lumley,
Jan Slakov, Dwyer Sullivan, Eric Unger

We simply cannot afford not to reject violent models. We need immediate and sweeping gun law reform. We need to reconsider our military culture . . . and the growing arms race it fuels. And we need to re-examine our own relationships to violence and power and life itself.

Today, we are facing perhaps the greatest existential challenge humanity has ever faced: the climate crisis, a global level of catastrophic upheaval. The climate crisis itself is a product of a violent attitude towards the earth: we extract from, ravage and pollute the earth in the same way we have treated subjugated people. And climate change will lead to even more instability and violence.

The truth is, no amount of violence can solve this problem. Indeed, our obsession with violence only takes us further away from finding real solutions. It is only by working together, cooperating, thinking on a global scale, and prioritizing the value of life itself that we can meet the climate crisis.

Rather than using violent language like "combating climate change" which suggests that we need to live in a state of strife, we can emphasize how valuing the world around us leads to more effective outcomes for everyone. Rather than viewing young

men as potential fighters, young women as potential sex objects, and forests and animals and oceans and natural resources as commodities to be extracted, let's think of all life as part of an ecosystem where each element has its own inherent value. . . . think on a larger scale about what we want for all young men and women.

Like new parents, we can and must shift our priorities and re-imagine the world and our place in it. It's people of [my son's] generation who are leading the way in a new environmental movement, and it's time for the rest of us to follow their lead. We must loudly and clearly reject violence and the culture of militarism for our children. We must put away all tools of destruction and bring out new ones to build a healthier and more sustainable environment - around and within us.

This is an excerpt from an article by Nadia Colburn that appeared recently in [Open Democracy](http://www.opendemocracy.net) (www.opendemocracy.net).

For more information about Nadia Colburn visit nadiacolburn.com.

SOURCES

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Climate Change, Security, and Conflict

Peace Science Digest

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The Uninhabitable Earth,

David Wallace Wells, New York Intelligencer :

<http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans.html> “For every half-degree of warming societies will see between a 10 and 20 percent increase in the likelihood of armed conflict.”

Climate change poses 'significant risk' to security

Oliver Milman, The Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/14/military-experts-climate-change-significant-security-risk>

Climate Collapse and the Responsibility of the Military

Ria Verjauw, World Beyond War

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/climate-collapse-and-the-responsibility-of-the-military/>

Climate change threatens half of US bases

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Militarism's Impact on Climate Change Can No Longer Be Ignored – Interview with Ellen Barfield, War Resisters League <https://btlonline.org/militarisms-impact-on-climate-change-can-no-longer-be-ignored/>

Demilitarization for Deep Decarbonization

Tamara Lorincz for International Peace Bureau

<https://popularresistance.org/report-stop-ignoring-wars-militarization-impact-on-climate-change/>

“the military's carbon “bootprint” has been ignored”

Climate and Environmental Impacts of the Canadian and American militaries

Tamara Lorincz

https://worldbeyondwar.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Climate-and-Enviro-Impacts-of-US-and-Canadian-militaries_2018.pdf

War is not the way to climate justice

Brent Patterson for Rabble.ca

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/brent-patterson/2019/03/war-not-way-climate-justice>

Questions for candidates

Canada Federal Election

October 21, 2019

Meeting with a candidate?
Here are a couple of suggestions for questions that you might want to ask.:



1. Canada has not signed the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. What are your views on prohibiting nuclear weapons? If elected, how would you work with other MPs to get Canada to sign this treaty?
2. Have you heard of Bill C363 – An Act respecting conscientious objection to the use of taxes for military purposes? It was twice introduced in the House of Commons. Such an act would permit an individual to register as a conscientious objector and then request that the portion of their taxes equal to the military portion of the federal budget be credited to a special conscientious objectors' account. This money in the CO account would then be used for only non-military peace-building purposes. Would you support such a bill?

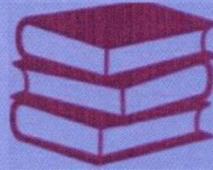
WHAT'S THE COST?



Cost to resettle 25,000 refugees in Canada over the next 6 years
\$1.2 billion⁽¹⁾



Cost of 1 new surface combat frigate (CSC)
\$2.7 billion⁽²⁾



Cost of classroom supplies for 46 children
\$2,070⁽⁵⁾



Cost of a C7A2 Automatic Rifle
\$2,100⁽⁶⁾



Cost to vaccinate 320,000 children
\$3,200,000⁽³⁾



Cost of a LAV III Armoured Personnel Carrier
\$3,200,000⁽⁴⁾



Cost to fund 9 peace-makers in Christian Peacemaker Teams
\$325,000⁽⁷⁾



Cost to fund & equip one Canadian soldier for one year
\$337,000⁽⁷⁾

How do you want YOUR money spent?

Use our

PEACE TAX RETURN

to re-direct military taxes to non-violent security and support legalization of military tax divestment

www.consciencecanada.ca

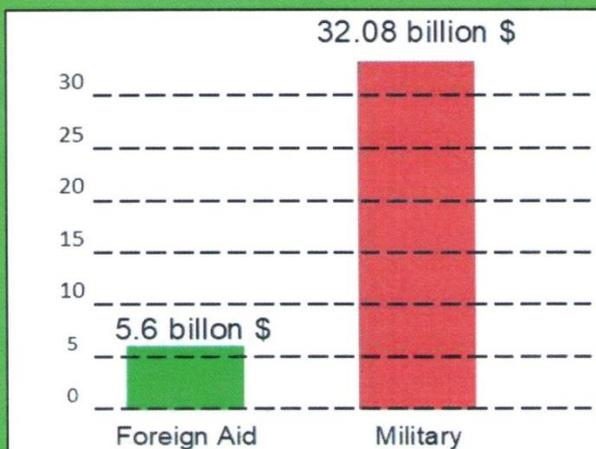
250-637-5251

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Conscience
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Canada's 2017 Spending⁽⁸⁾



Canada spends 5.7 times more money on the military than it spends on Foreign Aid.

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