



**Conscience
Canada**

***Peace Tax Return
for the 2020 tax year***

- ▶ **Affirm your refusal to pay for war
and**
- ▶ **Redirect a symbolic part of your military taxes
or**
- ▶ **Redirect all of your military taxes**

**Attention: This is not an official Canada Revenue Agency form.
This form is produced by Conscience Canada.**

Personal information

Name	
Address	
City	
Prov./Terr.	
Postal Code	
Telephone	
Email address	

NOTE: As your Social Insurance Number (SIN) is your Canada Revenue Agency account number, you may wish to add your SIN beneath your signature on the paper copy going to CRA.
DO NOT divulge your SIN to others.

Option A: Declaration of Conscience

- I am a conscientious objector to war and object to being forced to support war by the conscription of my taxes.
- In accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms provision for freedom of conscience I request that none of my taxes be used for war.
- I support the creation of a government controlled Peace Fund for non-military peace-building purposes to which the military portion of my taxes can be diverted

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Option B: Declaration of Conscience and withholding of military taxes

- I am a conscientious objector to war and object to being forced to support war by the conscription of my taxes.
- In accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms provision for freedom of conscience I request that none of my taxes be used for war.
- I support the creation of a government controlled Peace Fund for non-military peace-building purposes to which the military portion of my taxes can be diverted.
- On the grounds of conscience, and pending the creation of a government controlled Peace Fund, I am herewith:

diverting **7.3 %**, the military portion of my net federal income tax for tax year 2020

(or)

diverting a symbolic portion of the military share of my net federal tax: \$ _____
to the Peace Tax Trust Fund of Conscience Canada

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

THE PEACE TAX RETURN EXPLAINED: A Declaration of Objection to Military Taxes

The preceding form is for those who object to contributing to military spending on grounds of conscience and wish to declare their objection to the Canadian government. Although this is not an official Income Tax and Benefit Return form, it is not an offense to use it, nor are we aware of any criminal charges against any of the 1,000+ Canadians who have expressed conscientious objection to military taxation since Conscience Canada began in 1978. For information on likely consequences, please see the FAQs on our website — www.consciencecanada.ca and look under the **Resources** tab.

Please be aware that by using this Peace Tax Return and sending a copy to Conscience Canada (CC) you will be regarded as a voting member of CC. You will receive our twice yearly newsletter and occasional e-mails from us to keep you informed of new peace initiatives and other CC news and ideas.

Instructions for Option A

Option A is for those who have no tax payable, have a refund coming, or do not wish to redirect their military taxes but still want to register their objection to paying for war.

- Sign and date your Option A declaration of objection to military taxation.
- Mail it to the Minister of Finance, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6.
- Notify Conscience Canada by mail or email.

It will strengthen your message if you:

- Send a letter to the Minister of Finance along with your declaration, explaining why you wish to have your taxes supporting peace rather than killing. We offer a sample letter on page 4.
- Send copies of your letter to the Minister of Revenue, to all Party Leaders, your MP, and Conscience Canada. Contact information for MPs and cabinet ministers can be found at <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search> or call 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) for government contact information.

Instructions for Option B

Option B is for those who wish to redirect all or part of their military taxes.

- After completing your official Income Tax form down to Balance Owing, go back to the Net Federal Tax Line and calculate **7.3 %** (this is DND expenditures in 2019-20 as a percentage of total government expenditures) of the amount you entered on this line. Deduct that amount (the 7.3%) from your cheque or electronic payment to the Receiver General. If you have chosen to divert a symbolic sum, deduct the symbolic amount you have chosen if you have tax owing.
- Write a cheque for the amount you are diverting to “Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund” and send it to Conscience Canada, 515 Langs Dr., Unit J Cambridge ON N3H 5E4. Conscience Canada will hold this money in trust and will return it to you at any time at your request. In order to simplify bookkeeping, Conscience Canada will use interest accrued from the Peace Tax Trust Fund for operating expenses.
- Make two photocopies of your cheque to the Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund: one copy is for mailing to CRA, the other one is for your records.
- Write a letter to the Minister of Finance explaining why you wish to have your taxes supporting peace rather than killing. Modify the sample on the following page so that it speaks for you.
- After signing and dating the declaration in Option B, attach the following to your Income Tax and Benefit Return: the Peace Tax Return, the photocopy of your Peace Tax Trust Fund cheque, and a copy of your letter to the Minister of Finance. Send to your Tax Centre or Tax Services Office.
- Send a copy of your Peace Tax Return along with your letter to the Minister of Finance. We also encourage you to send copies of your letter to all Party Leaders, your MP, and Conscience Canada. Contact information for MPs and cabinet ministers can be found at <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search> or call 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) for government contact information.

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

I oppose war and killing and I am unable in good conscience to pay taxes which support war and the preparations for war. Canada has respected conscientious objection to bearing arms for over two hundred years. However, in this time of high tech warfare, governments need to conscript our money, not our bodies.

Freedom of conscience is guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I ask you to support similar legislation to Private Member's Bill C-363 (2011), "An Act respecting conscientious objection to the use of taxes for military purposes", which would allow me to direct that all my taxes be spent only for peaceful purposes. I am asking that you work to bring such a bill to a vote in the House of Commons. This kind of tax provision is needed in order for Canada to respect its commitment to freedom of conscience.

Sincerely,

[Your name]
[Your address]

In your letter, you may also wish to address the history of conscientious objection in Canada, the destructive effects of war, the financial burden and lost opportunities relating to military spending, the impact of military spending on the environment, non-violent alternatives to military force, and Canadian leadership in keeping peace. Visit our website consciencecanada.ca for more information.

If you have no tax to pay because it is deducted at source, you might want to add weight to your support for full recognition of conscientious objection by donating some or all of your tax refund to a group which works to promote peace and justice.

In being a conscientious objector to military taxation you are joined by many prominent Canadians. On May 12, 2009, Senator Nancy Ruth addressed the Senate of Canada, stating: "I am speaking in support of the re-introduction into parliament of the Conscientious Objection Act, which would give all Canadians the option of dedicating their taxes solely to peaceful purposes." As she had explained to senators on May 15, 2007, "I am one of those Canadians who, for some years, have withheld from my income tax payment the percentage for the military budget. I have put that money on deposit with a peace tax fund called Conscience Canada. I encourage honourable senators to do so too [...]"

CONSCIENCE CANADA has worked since 1978 to increase Canadians' awareness of the connection between taxes and war, divert taxes away from war, support creative non-violent conflict prevention and resolution, and promote conscientious objection legislation.

For more information, contact

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

Telephone: 250-537-5251

Email: info@consciencecanada.ca

Web: <https://www.consciencecanada.ca>