



Conscience Canada

Work for peace. Stop paying for war!
Travaillons pour la paix. Cessons de payer pour la guerre !

Conscience Canada works to redirect resources from militarism toward the things that actually keep us safe: health, housing, climate resilience, and respect for international law.

GET INVOLVED

Take action

Talk with people. Write your MP. Share this pamphlet. Bring one question to your school, workplace or community.

Connect

consciencecanada.ca
info@consciencecanada.ca
604-223-9328



This pamphlet was created by members and supporters of Conscience Canada. Special thanks to Basir Bitra, who was a member of a nonviolence youth group in Afghanistan and is still working with others from that group to create an institute of nonviolence. To learn more, check out basirbita.substack.com.

Full sourced version of this leaflet, with links to figures cited here, is available at consciencecanada.ca.

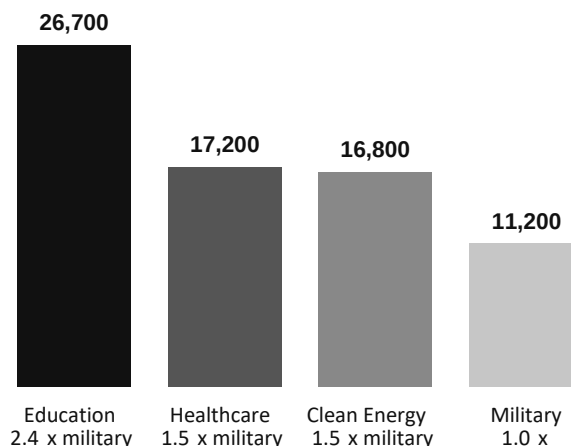
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THE QUESTION BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Military spending is often presented as the obvious route to safety. Yet we — our government too — know that no amount of military spending could fend off an invasion from a superpower.

Conscience Canada asks a wider question: can security also mean homes people can afford, healthcare, climate resilience, diplomacy, respect for international law, and communities skilled in nonviolence?

Where else could the money go?



Jobs created per \$1 billion invested
- Source: United Nations



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A PUBLIC CONVERSATION ABOUT SECURITY



Illustration: 7 Generations-The Impact of War, by Canadian painter Hélène Montpetit

WHAT IF REAL SECURITY CAN'T BE STOCKPILED?

Canada is spending dramatically more on the military. The question is not only how much we spend, but what kind of security we are building — and what we leave underfunded.

\$23B

DND EXPENDITURES, 2016

\$51B

DND BUDGET, 2026-27

+60%

SHARE OF FEDERAL GHG EMISSIONS
ATTRIBUTED TO THE MILITARY

WHAT KEEPS PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND THE LIVING WORLD SAFE?

Real security is shared wellbeing

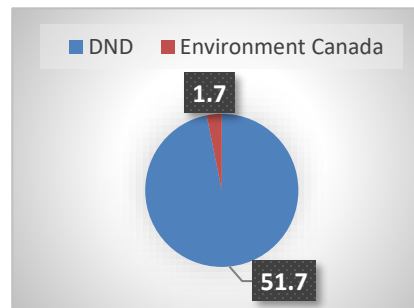
- A safe home and enough food.
- Healthcare and community services people can actually access.
- Climate-resilient infrastructure and clean air and water.
- Diplomacy, international law and nonviolent conflict transformation.
- The ability to disagree without dehumanizing one another.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL?

WHEN THE MILITARY BUDGET GROWS, WHAT GETS CUT?

- ① **CARE**
Federal funding for the Pharmacare program expires on April 1, 2029.
- ② **HOME**
Federal housing spending is projected to fall from \$9.8B (2025–26) to just \$4.3B by 2028–29.
- ③ **RELATIONSHIPS**
Over \$3B was cut from Indigenous Services this year, which raises questions about Canada's commitment to reparation and nation-building.
- ④ **LIVING WORLD**
Agricultural research, climate action and environmental protection receive far less attention than military expansion.

Here is a comparison of spending for 2026-27 on the military versus the environment (billions of \$)



Also affected: overseas development assistance — even as trade deals like the Canada-Ecuador FTA move ahead despite objections from land defenders and Parliament's own International Trade committee.

WHAT COULD WE BUILD INSTEAD?

Conscience Canada is not asking people to care less about safety. We are asking Canada to think more deeply about what safety requires.

- Honour Treaties and international law.
- Build practical skills for nonviolence in everyday life, communities and public policy.
- Invest in health, housing, food security, education and climate resilience.
- Protect life — human and beyond — rather than treating destruction as inevitable.
- Make room for critical thinking: ask who benefits, who pays, and what alternatives are being ignored.

“Another world is possible... on a quiet day I can hear her breathing.”

— Arundhati Roy



Peace Poppy by Canadian artist Lyla Smith