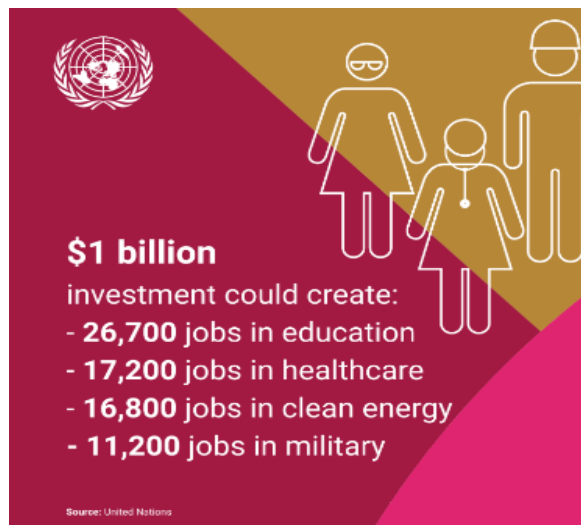


Canada's Military Spending is Skyrocketing



Since 2019, Canada's DND (Department of National Defence) spending has more than doubled, climbing from \$22.8B (2019) to \$51.7B (2026- 27).

Military spending is costly, not just in terms of dollars, but also with respect to pollution. Canada's military accounts for over 60% of federal GHG emissions.

And the Canadian government is "gunning" for a "Defence, Security and Resilience Bank" (DSRB) which would be headquartered in Canada and would help private arms companies gain access to investment money. It would enable these war profiteering companies to skirt ESG (ethical, social, governance) restrictions, offering these companies preferential access to financing.

Meanwhile, the Canadian government knows that the military could not fend off an invasion from a superpower, no matter how much of our tax money is spent.

So, why all this military spending? NATO has been pressuring Canada to spend more, but belonging to NATO means we are implicated in undermining international law, including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Carney government is touting its new Defence Industrial Strategy. They claim "the defence sector is an important contributor to the economy. In 2022, its nearly 600 firms contributed to 81,000 jobs." But we know that if our tax dollars were spent in other sectors, many more jobs could be created.

Examples of What is Being Cut:

- Federal contributions to pharmacare will expire by April 1, 2029.
- The PBO (Parliamentary Budget Office) concludes that the \$9.8 billion the federal government is spending on housing initiatives in 2025-26 will decline to just \$4.3 billion annually by 2028-29.
- Over \$3B will be cut from the Dept. of Indigenous services this year. (Building critical infrastructure for Indigenous communities is not considered "nation-building" by the federal government.)
- the Canadian government is cutting the Organic and Regenerative Agriculture Program & closing agricultural research facilities, for a savings of "just \$23.3 million/yr, roughly 50 cents per resident of Canada.

- There are also substantial cuts to ODA (Overseas Development Assistance). Meanwhile, some Canadian companies engage in exploitation, often facilitated by government. For example, In July the Canada-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement entered into force despite objections by land defenders & the Parliamentary Standing Committee on International Trade

Towards Security That Makes Sense

In the name of “Canada Strong”, the Canadian and provincial governments are ignoring their commitments to Indigenous Peoples, subsidizing projects that contaminate water, increase GHG emissions and Big Oil profits and, in some cases, support investment from MAGA billionaires (with ties to Trump &/or Epstein!)

And our government has contracts with companies which are known human rights violators. This includes Palantir, which the Swiss government decided poses a security risk (no kidding!)

If we really want to protect wellbeing (human & other than human) we need to chart a new course – opt out of spending and programs that funnel resources towards the very projects that undermine our security and use the resources we have to strengthen respect for Treaties & international law.

Research has shown that using nonviolent power tends to strengthen democracy while using violence often undermines it. And nonviolent campaigns actually have a higher success rate than violent uprisings. Preparation is key, so the Canadian Coalition for Nonviolent Defence – Coalition canadienne pour la défense non-violente (nonviolentdefence.ca) is mobilizing Canadians now.

We need to stop squandering money on weapons that can’t actually protect what we love and use it instead for social, environmental and justice programs that are needed for health and wellbeing. Because climate disruption is well underway, we also need to repair and upgrade infrastructure. (We don’t want sewage in our basements and we don’t want crap in our media either. We need better protection from climate-fueled wildfires and from rage-farming and gaslighting!)

Intrigued? Inspired? Feel free to reach out to Conscience Canada (info@consciencecanada.ca or contact our president directly: janslavkov@proton.me / 604 223-9328 We’re happy to share our sources for the information in this handout sheet.)

Sources:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/departmental-plans/departmental-plan-2026-27.html#spending>

<https://hillnotes.ca/defence-spending-table-a/>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2026/03/canada-achieves-the-2-of-gross-domestic-product-defence-spending-benchmark.html>

<https://www.dsrb.org/what-is-the-dsrb>

<https://wilpfcanada.ca/resources/>

<https://canuckpost.com/is-canada-capable-to-defend-itself-from-the-u-s-militarily-speaking-experts-say-no-canada-cannot-realistically-defend-itself-militarily-against-the-united-states-the-u-s-has-overwhelmed/> & <https://theconversation.com/canada-should-be-wary-of-embracing-total-national-defence-to-ward-off-an-american-invasion-274295>

Update: One of the links above no longer seems to work. However, there are other articles such as this one: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/article/american-invasion-of-canada-would-spark-decades-long-insurgency-expert-predicts/>

<https://refdesk.ca/blog/canada-federal-pharmacare-withdrawal-bilateral-deals-expire-june-21-2026-patients-provinces-advocates-guide>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/pbo-housing-cuts-report-9.6931844>

<https://www.uts.utoronto.ca/polisci/cuts-indigenous-services-canada-sparking-concerns-return-band-aid-solutions-and-mistakes-past> & <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/article/first-nations-infrastructure-critical-but-not-nation-building-minister/>

<https://foecanada.org/2026/03/stop-the-cuts-to-canadian-agricultural-research/>

Amnesty International Canada

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/dec/22/mps-question-uk-palantir-contracts-security-concerns-investigation>

Dogwood's Kai Nagata shares video clips to reveal truth about LNG subsidies, eg. :

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/aV1UAHq6Xwk> https://www.youtube.com/shorts/lf3Zl46K_Nw .