

# Science for Peace

January 20, 2022

## President's Column



Dear Members,

Trudeau's campaign platform in 2015 stated in bold: "We will not buy the F-35 stealth fighter-bomber." It then noted: "The primary mission of our fighter aircraft should remain the defense of North America, not stealth first-strike capability. We will reduce the procurement budget for replacing the CF-18s, and will instead purchase one of the many, lower-priced options that better match Canada's defense needs." Trudeau was right, the F35s are only useful if we are part of one of the many USA-led wars. These are planes designed to kill people and destroy infrastructure, not to defend our territory.

Why did the Trudeau government change his position? According to former Senator Douglas Roche, this is one of the consequences of the tragic invasion of Ukraine by Russia. However, it should be noted that, in addition to Russian territorial ambitions, one of the reasons for the Ukraine war was the failure of the West to create a common security system in Europe after the end of the cold war. In an article published by "The Hill" Roche states that the "purchase of F-35s indicates Canada has given up on peace as best route to global security" and that now "it is clear for all to see that militarism has taken over Canada's foreign policy".

The cost of the acquisition of the F35's is \$19 billion. However, the total cost of the life cycle of these fighter jets, which includes the cost of sustainment,

operations, and infrastructure, is estimated to be \$76 billion. The amount requested by the Canadian Association to solve the serious problems in the long-term care system is \$3.14 billion, and, according to the Parliamentary Budget Office, the estimated cost of improving water and wastewater systems in Indigenous communities is \$3.2 billion. The embattled health care system of Canada could also make good use of some of the funds that are going to be spent on the F35s.

In addition to being a tremendous waste of money that could otherwise be used to solve many of the social problems in Canada, the purchasing of these planes will make a significant contribution to the climate crisis. An F35 burns over 5,600 liters of fuel in one flying hour.

In short, Trudeau made the right decision in 2015, for the right reasons. That decision remains the best decision today. No F-35 fighter jets!

*Jorge Filmus  
President, Science for Peace*

## Recent Activities

### Take Action to Ban Plutonium Reprocessing in Canada

- Watch the campaign [launch message](#) by Dr. Gordon Edwards
- Visit the campaign web page at [reprocessing.ca](http://reprocessing.ca)
- Share a "Ban Reprocessing" [post on social media](#)
- [Register](#) for the January 19th webinar
- Call or write to [your MP](#) and demand a ban on reprocessing



Dr. Gordon Edwards, Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

Launch Message for the Campaign to Ban Plutonium Reprocessing in Canada, December 2022

**JANUARY 19, 2023, 7 PM ET**

Co-sponsored by Science for Peace

## BLUMENFELD JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS

Hans Blumenfeld, who died in 1988, made significant contributions over many years to the cause of peace. One aspect of that contribution was his creation of the Franz Blumenfeld Peace Fund, in memory of his brother who died in the First World War. The Fund is now in the care of Science for Peace, and its purpose is to award grants to assist projects in peace education and research.

In 2022, your board decided to use the accumulated Blumenfeld Fund to finance up to three junior fellows each academic year. To be qualified, candidates have to have completed their Bachelor's degree, achieve a high academic standing, and be engaged in the subject matter of at least one working group. Those selected participate in a working group, and conduct research on pertinent topics. Their short and accessible research papers are then rigorously vetted by SfP mentors. The revised article is then published on our website or in another venue. Junior Fellows are paid for each article that is accepted for publication.

### Blumenfeld Junior Fellows, 2022-23

#### Alfie Hoar

Alfie Hoar is a student at Pembroke College, Oxford, studying Physics and Philosophy. Having just completed his Bachelor's degree and is now moving into his Master's, Alfie has a broad

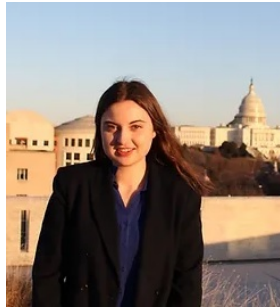


interest in the philosophy of science and science's place in society. He has been involved in campaigns against climate science misinformation and for progressive climate policy in the UK. He participates in SfP's Non-Violent Resistance Working Group.



### **Boris Kyrychenko**

Boris Kyrychenko, born and raised in Toronto, is a recent undergraduate from the University of Toronto, who completed his major in International Relations, and two minors in political science and French studies. His research interests include Canadian foreign policy, world history, nuclear non-proliferation, Eastern European and NATO geopolitics.



### **Aidan Oliver**

Aidan Oliver is a Master's student at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University. In April 2022, she completed her undergraduate at the University of Toronto in Political Science, Environmental Science and French; writing a senior thesis on Arctic Security. She also works for Defence Research and Development Canada on issues of Climate Change and Security.

### **A Request**

This new venture is an important, but expensive, expansion of our activities. Should you wish to contribute to the Blumenfeld Fund to support this venture, Please send a cheque made out to Science for Peace, noting that the donation is intended for the Franz Blumenfeld Peace Fund. Donations are tax-deductible. Please send your cheque to Melisa Kuc, Science for Peace, University College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3H7. Alternatively, you can donate via the donate button on our website at [www.scienceforpeace.org](http://www.scienceforpeace.org) indicating the Blumenfeld Fund as recipient.

Richard Sandbrook, Vice-President

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