



Science for Peace

September 15, 2025

President's Column



Dear Members,

Coming out of a recent NATO meeting, Prime Minister Carney announced that, like other NATO members, Canada plans to increase its military budget to 5 % of its GDP by 2035. According to the PM, this means that by 2035 Canada will be spending at least \$150 billion on the military. This sum will represent about one-third of the Federal Government expenditures. Currently, our military budget represents 1.37 % of the GDP. This indicates that Carney has committed Canada to almost quadruple its military spending (measured as a percentage of the GDP) in the next ten years.

The 2025-2026 federal budget already includes an increment in the military budget of \$9 billion. Carney also said that the increase to 5 % of GDP will include 3.5 % for core military spending, and 1.5 % for defense-related infrastructure, such as cyber security, ports, bases and airfields.

When asked what sacrifices Canadians will have to make to meet this funding commitment, Carney was vague, but he said that there will be “trade-offs”. Recent government directives to its Ministers regarding the preparation of the next federal budget are already providing an idea what these “trade-offs” will mean. These directives include the finding of 15% (\$25 billion) in savings over the next three years, which will require not only a reduction in staff and operating budgets, but also a significant reduction in federal transfers to the provinces, municipalities, non-profits and business. According to a recent study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives the transfers most likely to be cut will target Health, Housing, Infrastructure, Emergency Preparedness, Industry, Veterans, First Nations, Newcomer Support, Research and Science, International Aid, and Refugees.

The typical explanation presented by Government officials and “military experts” for this dramatic increase in military expenditure is that Russia

represents a serious security threat to our sovereignty and that of other NATO members. This explanation doesn't make sense. Russia's military budget is currently estimated to be 10 % of that of NATO. Clearly, NATO countries don't need to increase their defense budget to deter Russia.

Sometimes China is also included as a potential security threat, but any serious analysis will conclude that there is no reason for China to be attacking Canada.

In fact, the only country which has recently threatened Canada's sovereignty is the US, since Trump has consistently declared that our country should become the 51st State. A recent poll by the Pew Research Centre has shown that 59 % of Canadians consider the US to be the greatest threat to their security.

Another official justification for the increase in military expenditure to 5 % of GDP is that this is demanded by Trump. Acquiescing to his request will allegedly facilitate the removal of tariffs that the US government has imposed on Canadian imports. But historical experience shows that trying to appease a bully by acquiescing to his demands doesn't work.

In addition to the dramatic increase in the military budget, Carney has already accepted other Trump's demands. He has rescinded the Digital Services Tax, he has accepted to participate in the absurd "Golden Dome" anti-ballistic project (whose cost to Canada has been estimated by Trump in 71 billion USD), and, more recently, he has removed retaliatory tariffs on a significant proportion of US imports. Despite all these concessions, Carney has already signaled that we should not expect a return to the zero-tariff agreement that we had with the US before Trump became president for the second time.

A third commonly used reason to justify the dramatic increase in the military budget is that by doing this Canada will increase its influence in the international scene. This is not a reasonable argument. Does anybody seriously think that Trump will listen to Canada on international matters just because we have increased our military budget?

Given the high dependence of the Canadian Armed Forces on the US ones, the largest proportion of the new armaments that Canada will buy to reach the 5 % of GDP will come from the military industrial complex in the US. This is certainly the main reason for Trump's demands to increase military spending by NATO countries.

It thus seems that the Liberal government's budget satisfies Trump's priorities instead of those of most Canadians.

At Science for Peace, we believe that the Canadian government should give priority in its budget to supporting a foreign policy that is focused on peaceful resolution of world conflicts, on peacekeeping, and on the establishment of a world order based on the principle of common security.

On September 30 at 11 am ET, Science for Peace will present a webinar featuring the eminent Israeli historian, Ilan Pappé. He will talk about the conflict in the Middle East, where the Palestinian people are being starved and killed by the Israeli Army. To register for the Zoom meeting, please go to [Scienceforpeace.org](https://scienceforpeace.org).

Jorge Filmus
President

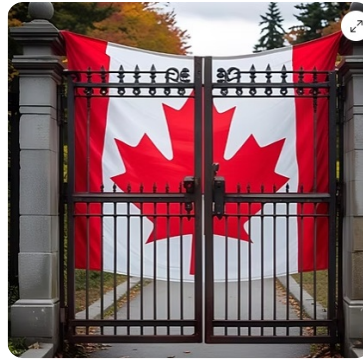
Recent Publications



Arnd Jurgensen: **The Golden Dome**

A critique of Trump's proposed "Golden Dome" missile defense system and why Canada should firmly reject participation in favor of diplomacy and global stability.

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Richard Sandbrook: **How Seriously Should Canadians Take Trump's Annexation Threats?**

The article outlines reasons for concern and signs to watch for over annexation threats, arguing that Canadians must prepare primarily through nonviolent civilian defence to protect national sovereignty.

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Aman Nair: **Unpacking Canada's Military Dependence on the United States**

This article reveals Canada's military reliance on the United States in areas like joint commands, equipment, surveillance, and training, and warns this dependence is now a major risk. It urges Canada to rethink and strengthen its defence strategy.

[Read article](#)

Upcoming Events

A SCIENCE FOR PEACE WEBINAR WITH SPECIAL GUEST

ILAN PAPPÉ ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CRISIS



Professor Ilan Pappé is the director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter. A prolific author, Pappé has worked in many institutions exploring Israel-Palestine history, multiculturalism, and the dynamics of power and knowledge.

DATE
TUES, SEPTEMBER 30

TIME
11 AM — 1 PM EST

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