

## THE ROAD TO NATO'S 5% GDP IS THE ROAD TO CANADA'S RUIN:

### More Military Spending will lead to More Poverty, Global Warming, and War

The Carney government has released the country's first **Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS)**. The DIS is a roadmap to reach the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) 5% GDP target and "rebuild, rearm and reinvest in the Canadian Armed Forces" (CAF) over the next decade.

With the DIS, the federal government is irresponsibly and recklessly militarizing the Canadian economy, which will harm people and the planet and risk an arms race and war.

To reach **NATO's new Defence Investment Pledge of 5% of GDP by 2035**, Carney admitted that the federal government will boost the military budget to over \$150 billion per year. According to NATO's latest *Defence Expenditures* report, Canada's military spending was \$44 billion in 2024 and will rise to \$64 billion this year to hit the 2% GDP target, which is five years faster than scheduled. By 2035 it will be \$150/billion per year.

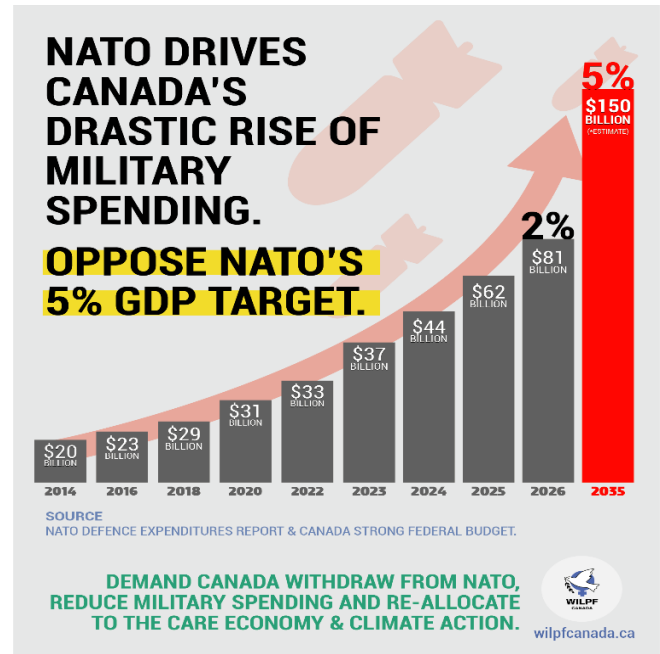
The only way to reach this level is by massive cuts to other federal programs.

Over the next ten years, the federal government is spending an exorbitant amount of Canadian tax dollars: \$180 billion for defence procurement and \$290 billion in defence-related capital investment in Canada, a **combined \$470 billion**, to implement the DIS.

For the DIS, Carney explained that the government would make "unprecedented investments in over-the-horizon radar, in submarines, in aircraft, and boots on the ground — boots on the ice." Canada will ramp up domestic weapons production and double arms exports. Yet, this rapid rise in military expenditures and weapons procurement will put Canada on a dangerous "wartime footing."

Carney appointed Doug Guzman, his close friend from Goldman Sachs to head the DIA. Guzman will receive one of the highest salaries in the federal government **at \$670,000/year plus performance bonuses**. Guzman's salary is more than double the salary of the Chief of Defence Staff General Jennie Carignan who commands the military at \$329,000 and more than salary of the Minister of National Defence David McGuinty at \$309,000.

With all this military spending, the Canadian government is accelerating the procurement of new weapon systems and next generation capabilities. Plus, the military is recruiting 13,000 more soldiers to bring the CAF to 71,500 regular and 30,000 primary reserve members by 2030 to "fight on new battlegrounds." As the backgrounder of the defence investment plan states, the goal is to build the Canadian military into "a strong fighting force." **What country will the Canadian military fight? What happened to peacekeeping?**



The Canadian military is currently at its **lowest level for peacekeeping with only 27 soldiers on United Nations' peace support operations** according to the UN Peacekeeping Office. By contrast, Canada has 3,000 soldiers leading the NATO multinational battle group in Latvia.

*We have to ask:* Why is the federal government spending so much on the military and so little on the urgent priorities for Canadians, such as affordable housing, health care, education, pharmacare, child care, climate action, and Indigenous reconciliation? Increasing military spending and expanding the defence industrial base do not achieve any of these Canadian priorities.



Last September, the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres released an important report, *The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future*, that showed that more jobs could be created in the care economy than the military. It also warned, “**Military expenditure harms the planet because it is emissions-intensive. Each dollar allocated to the military generates more than twice the greenhouse gas emissions of a dollar spent elsewhere.**” The *Canadian Climate Institute’s* report that showed that Canada “is not on track to meet any of its climate goals, including its 2035 target and net zero emissions by 2050.” Yet, the government is diverting billions of tax dollars to carbon-intensive militarism. More weapons will make global warming worse and war more likely.

Finally, the UN Secretary General’s annual report on *Women Peace and Security* concluded, “Women peacebuilders’ universal message to governments and armed actors is unequivocal: **end the wars, respect international law and disarm.**” The Canadian government is doing the exact opposite and ignoring the UN recommendations and the voices of peacebuilders and wasting hundreds of billions on re-armament.

**SOURCE:** *The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future*, UN.

**TAKE ACTION:**

- Read our VOW-WILPF-Canada open letter to the Prime Minister & Defence Minister: [wilpfcanda.ca](http://wilpfcanda.ca)
- Contact the Prime Minister at [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca) and your Member of Parliament to say “**Cut Military Spending, No to NATO’s 5% GDP!**” and “**Cancel the Defence Industrial Strategy**” and “**Invest in Peace, Not War**”
- Get involved in a peace group! Check out the list of groups with the *Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network*: <https://peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/>
- Follow *Shutdown CANSEC*: <https://www.instagram.com/shut.down.cansec/>

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE PEOPLE’S HEARING ON MILITARY SPENDING!**

**Saturday, April 18 in Ottawa. Organized by the Ottawa Peace Council. More details to come.**

Learn more how increasing military spending from \$44 billion/year to \$150 billion/year by 2035 will adversely impact you and the country. No to NATO’s 5%.

**JOIN US TO SHUT DOWN NORTH AMERICA’S BIGGEST ARMS FAIR IN NORTH AMERICA: CANSEC!**

**Wednesday, May 27 & Thursday, May 28**

The big American and Israeli arms dealers come to CANSEC.

Join us in the morning of May 27 to protest and rally for peace not war and weapons. Shutdown CANSEC.