



## **Canadians Back Nuclear Weapons Ban**

**Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau    May 15, 2021**

**Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,**

Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention met in the past months with an international group of arms control/disarmament experts to address the growing threat of a nuclear catastrophe in the context of disturbing strategic instability, the accelerating climate crisis, and the unnerving and persistent reality of a global pandemic.

We found that world crises are worsening, and the elimination of nuclear weapons should be an urgent national priority.

There is wide support in Canada for action. An April 2021 Nanos Poll found 80 percent of Canadians agree that the world should work to eliminate nuclear weapons, and 74 percent agree that Canada should join the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; 73 percent agree, even in the face of strong pressure from the US not to do so.

We call on Canada to take these additional actions:

- \* Reiterate the 1985 statement by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.”
- \* Renew the Canadian commitment, made under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to the “unequivocal undertaking” to the total elimination of nuclear arsenals.
- \* Urge nuclear powers to take concrete steps, like de-alerting, to reduce the risks of accidental use of nuclear weapons.
- \* Work with like-minded partners in NATO to revise the Alliance’s Strategic Concept and defence posture to end reliance on nuclear weapons.
- \* Press NATO and the U.S. to start talks with both Russia and China on the conditions and requirements for strategic stability and nuclear disarmament.

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**The Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention Steering Committee:**

**Ernie Regehr, O.C., Chairman**  
**Dr. Adele Buckley**  
**Bev DeLong**  
**Cesar Jaramillo**  
**Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.**  
**Dr. Jennifer Simons, C.M.**