

Canadians Back Nuclear Weapons Ban

Open Letter to the Prime Minister

May 31, 2021

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

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. As world crises worsen, the global goal of eliminating nuclear weapons is urgent and should be a national priority. Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention* urges Canada to welcome the Prohibition Treaty and attend as an observer the forthcoming first meeting of the 54 States Parties to the Treaty.

We call on Canada to take these additional actions:

* **Affirm**, and urge nuclear powers to 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.”

* **Press** nuclear powers to take concrete steps, like de-alerting and no-first-use commitments, 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.

* **Urge** NATO and the U.S. to start talks with both Russia and China on the conditions and requirements for strategic stability and nuclear disarmament.

(signed)

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**The Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention Steering Committee:
Ernie Regehr, O.C. (Chair), Adele Buckley, Bev Tollefson Delong, Cesar Jaramillo, Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C., Jennifer Allen Simons, C.M.**

* Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, a project of the Canadian Pugwash Group, is endorsed by more than 1,000 distinguished Canadians, all of whom have been honoured by the Order of Canada.