

**Ontario Provincial Council
Legislation**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

2019.02 **Canadian Support for the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons***

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, in 99th annual convention assembled, urges the federal government to support, sign and ratify the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*.

8 **BRIEF: Canadian Support for the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear***
9 ***Weapons***

10 Since 1945 many pictures and writings have informed Canadians of the devastation caused by two
11 atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan. As of mid-2017, it was estimated
12 there were 14,000 nuclear weapons in the world, each many times more powerful than those
13 dropped on Japan in 1945. By far the largest concentrations reside in the United States and Russia.
14 Smaller arsenals are possessed by the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and
15 North Korea (ICAN Nuclear). Even a small number of these bombs could cause an inconceivable
16 number of casualties and have a catastrophic effect on the earth's climate and agricultural
17 production, ultimately leading to widespread famine (CRC par. 7, Helfand 1). The extraction and
18 after-effects of materials used to build nuclear weapons cause great harm to the environment
19 (WILPF par. 6). "Fissile materials created from uranium ore remain toxic and weapons-usable for
20 many millennia" (ICAN Production par. 1). In 1945, nuclear weapons caused dire injury with long-
21 lasting effects (ICAN Hiroshima #1).

22 On July 7, 2017, the United Nations adopted the first-ever *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear*
23 *Weapons* (TPNW) (UNODA Treaty par. 4). Currently 70 countries have signed and of these, 25
24 have ratified the treaty (ICAN Signature/ratification status). Once 50 nations have signed and
25 ratified this treaty, nuclear weapons, like land mines and cluster bombs, become illegal. Those
26 signing the treaty agree to ban development, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring,
27 possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons; to assist victims of the use
28 and testing of nuclear weapons; and to help with cleanup of environmental contamination (ICAN
29 Treaty par. 3,5). The Holy See has consistently called for the abolition of these evil instruments of
30 warfare and ratification of the TPNW. The Canadian Council of Churches, which includes the
31 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, has urged the federal government to support the TPNW
32 (CCC par. 1).

33 Canada has not signed the TPNW claiming that nuclear weapons located in the United States are
34 essential to Canada's security. Nuclear weapons give a false sense of security, the "nuclear
35 deterrence theory" has instead led to nuclear proliferation, and nuclear weapons cannot be
36 contained (Krieger). The United Nations secretary-general reiterated, "A nuclear war cannot be
37 won and must never be fought" (UNODA Securing 20-21).

38 Canada should join the nations that have signed and ratified the United Nations *Treaty on the*
39 *Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (Maurer par. 10,16).

40 **Works Cited**

41 Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). “Nuclear Disarmament.” 2019,
42 www.councilofchurches.ca/social-justice/peace-and-disarmament/nuclear-disarmament/.
43 Accessed 22 July 2019.

44 Canadian Red Cross (CRC). “Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Weapons.” 2011,
45 [www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/international-humanitarian-law/what-is-international-](http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/international-humanitarian-law/what-is-international-humanitarian-law/weapons-and-international-humanitarian-law/nuclear-biological-and-chemical-weapons)
46 [humanitarian-law/weapons-and-international-humanitarian-law/nuclear-biological-and-](http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/international-humanitarian-law/what-is-international-humanitarian-law/weapons-and-international-humanitarian-law/nuclear-biological-and-chemical-weapons)
47 [chemical-weapons](http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/international-humanitarian-law/what-is-international-humanitarian-law/weapons-and-international-humanitarian-law/nuclear-biological-and-chemical-weapons). Accessed 22 July 2019.

48 Fihn, Beatrice and Setsuko Thurlow. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
49 (CIAN) – Nobel Lecture (English). *The Nobel Prize*, 10 December 2017,
50 [www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2017/ican/26041-international-campaign-to-abolish-](http://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2017/ican/26041-international-campaign-to-abolish-nuclear-weapons-ican-nobel-lecture-2017/)
51 [nuclear-weapons-ican-nobel-lecture-2017/](http://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2017/ican/26041-international-campaign-to-abolish-nuclear-weapons-ican-nobel-lecture-2017/). Accessed 22 July 2019.

52 Gomes, Robin. Holy See urges ratification of Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.” *Vatican News*,
53 23 October 2018, [www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2018-10/holy-see-united-](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2018-10/holy-see-united-nations-auza-prohibition-nuclear-weapons.html)
54 [nations-auza-prohibition-nuclear-weapons.html](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2018-10/holy-see-united-nations-auza-prohibition-nuclear-weapons.html). Accessed 22 July 2019.

55 Helfand, Ira. *Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk? Global Impacts of Limited Nuclear*
56 *War on Agriculture, Food Supplies, and Human Nutrition* (2nd ed.). International Physicians
57 for the Prevention of Nuclear War; Physicians for Social Responsibility, 2013.
58 www.ippnw.org/pdf/nuclear-famine-two-billion-at-risk-2013.pdf. Accessed 22 July 2019.

59 International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “Hiroshima and Nagasaki: 7
60 Things You Should Know.” 3 August 2018, [www.icanw.org/action/hiroshima-and-nagasaki-](http://www.icanw.org/action/hiroshima-and-nagasaki-7-things-you-should-know/)
61 [7-things-you-should-know/](http://www.icanw.org/action/hiroshima-and-nagasaki-7-things-you-should-know/). Accessed 22 July 2019.

62 International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “Nuclear Arsenals.” 2017,
63 www.icanw.org/the-facts/nuclear-arsenals. Accessed 22 July 2019.

64 International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “Production of Nuclear
65 Weapons.” 2017, [www.icanw.org/the-facts/catastrophic-harm/production-of-nuclear-](http://www.icanw.org/the-facts/catastrophic-harm/production-of-nuclear-weapons/)
66 [weapons/](http://www.icanw.org/the-facts/catastrophic-harm/production-of-nuclear-weapons/). Accessed 22 July 2019.

67 International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “Signature/ratification status of
68 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.” 2019, [https://www.icanw.org/status-of-](https://www.icanw.org/status-of-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/)
69 [the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/](https://www.icanw.org/status-of-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/). Accessed 16 August 2019.

70 International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “Spending on Nuclear
71 Weapons.” 2017, [www.icanw.org/the-facts/catastrophic-harm/a-diversion-of-public-](http://www.icanw.org/the-facts/catastrophic-harm/a-diversion-of-public-resources/)
72 [resources/](http://www.icanw.org/the-facts/catastrophic-harm/a-diversion-of-public-resources/). Accessed 22 July 2019.

73 International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “The Treaty.” 2017,
74 www.icanw.org/the-treaty/. Accessed 22 July 2019.

75 Krieger, David. "Ten Serious Flaws in Nuclear Deterrence Theory." Nuclear Age Peace
76 Foundation, 7 February 2011, [www.wagingpeace.org/ten-serious-flaws-in-nuclear-](http://www.wagingpeace.org/ten-serious-flaws-in-nuclear-deterrence-theory/)
77 [deterrence-theory/](http://www.wagingpeace.org/ten-serious-flaws-in-nuclear-deterrence-theory/). Accessed 22 July 2019.

78 Maurer, Peter. "Why States must sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
79 weapons: A pleas for humanity." International Committee of the Red Cross, 26 September
80 2018, [www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-president-why-states-must-sign-ratify-treaty-](http://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-president-why-states-must-sign-ratify-treaty-prohibition-nuclear-weapons-plea-humanity)
81 [prohibition-nuclear-weapons-plea-humanity](http://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-president-why-states-must-sign-ratify-treaty-prohibition-nuclear-weapons-plea-humanity). Accessed 22 July 2019.

82 Pope John XXIII. *Pacem in Terris*. The Vatican, 11 April 1963, [w2.vatican.va/content/john-](http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem.html)
83 [xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem.html). Accessed 22 July
84 2019.

85 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). *Securing Our Common Future*.
86 UNODA, 2018, www.un.org/disarmament/sg-agenda/. Accessed 22 July 2019.

87 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). "Treaty on the Prohibition of
88 Nuclear Weapons." 2017, www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/. Accessed 22 July
89 2019.

90 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). "Environment and Nuclear
91 Weapons." [www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/4734-](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/4734-environment-and-nuclear-weapons)
92 [environment-and-nuclear-weapons](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/4734-environment-and-nuclear-weapons). Accessed July 22, 2019.

93 **Action Plan**

- 94 1. Hold a speaker presentation to inform members of the necessity of banning nuclear
95 weapons and of the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*.
- 96 2. Provide a list of websites and printed materials to members to increase knowledge of the
97 hazards of nuclear warfare.
- 98 3. Write letters to the prime minister and local members of parliament indicating support of
99 the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*.
- 100 4. Monitor the federal government's response to this resolution.