



October 29, 2020

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Delivered electronically: [francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca](mailto:francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca)

**RE: Canada must ratify the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

Dear Minister Champagne,

We are writing to you out of conviction that greater progress towards eliminating nuclear weapons is necessary, urgent, and possible. We urge you to make nuclear arms control and disarmament a national priority. This letter requests that the Government of Canada sign and ratify the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As you would be aware, Canada has not yet signed and ratified this important UN treaty.

This call to action is supported by the local community and endorsed by the Mennonite Church of Canada, the Winnipeg Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Mines Action Canada, and KAIROS Manitoba & North Western Ontario group, as well as a variety of action groups for nuclear disarmament across Canada, and indeed the world, that are contacting their elected representatives this week. Our constituents call on Canada to demonstrate leadership by fulfilling its obligations towards nuclear non-proliferation and working to save the U.N. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In support of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Nobel Peace Laureate 2017, and Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, we urge you, the Prime Minister, and your fellow Ministers to give renewed and urgent attention to nuclear non-proliferation.

We would like to express appreciation for the fact that Canada has been a historical partner in global peace efforts and a strong advocate at the United Nations. Canada was helpful in working actively with other nations to conclude the Convention and to strengthen the NPT. What is missing now is a firm commitment from Canada towards the NPT and a binding timetable for the abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world. It would be a shame to let Canada's legacy and hard work go to waste. The U.N. Institute for Disarmament Research clarified critical nuclear challenges and an evidence-based accounting of what nuclear weapons continue to do to people, societies, and the environment. It is time for Canada to act and fulfil its NPT Treaty obligations. This action would provide an unmistakable signal that Canada is indeed in the forefront of indispensable global efforts to move us towards nuclear non-proliferation.



Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you on the details of your Government's response to the existing nuclear weapons threat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Gazan".

Leah Gazan, Member of Parliament  
Winnipeg Centre  
NDP Critic for Families, Children and Social Development, and  
NDP Deputy Critic for Immigration, Citizenship and Refugees.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Harris".

Jack Harris, Member of Parliament  
St. John's East  
NDP Critic for Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Foreign Affairs, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, and as Deputy Critic for Defence.

Cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Delivered electronically: [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)  
The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence  
Delivered electronically: [Harjit.sajjan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Harjit.sajjan@parl.gc.ca)

*Quakers, including those in Winnipeg, have been working for the abolition of nuclear weapons since their first use. Our annual support of Quaker United Nations work including nuclear disarmament, our annual participation in planning and implementing the August 6th Lantern Festival in Winnipeg remembering the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and our minute in May 2020 for Canada to sign the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons are expressions of this work. We deeply appreciate this opportunity to renew our call to our government to take the important step of signing and ratifying this Treaty.*

-Winnipeg Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



*Far from being useless, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has provisions to mitigate the harm caused by nuclear weapons use and testing that will start being implemented immediately. Canada should support that work in line with our commitment to the SDGs, a Feminist Foreign Policy and the rules based international order and the join the Treaty without delay.*

- Mines Action Canada

*We are Indigenous, settlers and newcomers in Canada working with people of faith or conscience all over the world for ecological justice and human rights. Our local groups Kairos Manitoba & North Western Ontario are pleased to be included in Member of Parliament Leah Gazan's call on Canadian government officials to act for peace and justice.*

- KAIROS Manitoba & North Western Ontario group

