

# This federal election, vote to PROTECT PEACE AT HOME AND ABROAD



**W**hen Canadians are asked about the traditional role of the Canadian military, they speak with pride about Canadian participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions. But many would be shocked to learn that Canada has abandoned its traditional role as a peacekeeper, in favour of supporting U.S.-led military intervention.

In 1992-93, participation in UN missions accounted for more than nine out of every 10 dollars spent on international operations. By 2004-05, spending on UN missions accounted for only 30 cents of every 10 dollars of Canada's spending on military missions abroad. The Bush administration continues to massively retool its military, which has entailed an enhanced use of advanced military technology, especially space systems, new nuclear weapons systems, and a continental missile defence plan.

Meanwhile, people in Canada are seeing their human rights compromised by the incursion of U.S.-style "Homeland Security" measures, including harmonized refugee and immigration policies and anti-terrorism legislation that denies people the right to a fair trial.

While public pressure forced the government to say "no" to participation in the war in Iraq and Ballistic Missile Defence, Canada is quietly integrating its military policies with the U.S.

## Here are five reasons why Canadians should be concerned:

### 1. The United States has a nuclear arsenal ready for launch.

Although the United States signed the 1970 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, it has never met its obligations of eliminating its nuclear arsenal. There are now 10,000 nuclear weapons in the United States, 2,000 of them on a hair-trigger alert. In addition to its nuclear arsenal, the United States is also preparing to move "collision" weapons into space.

### 2. Canada is abandoning its commitment to multilateralism.

Canada is already the seventh highest military spender,

dollar for dollar, among NATO's 26 members and has been aligning itself regularly with the increasingly unilateralist United States. Canada has joined the U.S. in military actions in Afghanistan, and although Canada said "no" to the war in Iraq, political pressure has been mounting for Canada to also join the United States in its so-called "War on Terror."

### 3. The missile defence issue will not go away.

Canada said "no" to missile defence, but because of military integration with the United States, Canada continues to assist with the U.S.-run missile defence system through NORAD. In August 2004, Ottawa and Washington agreed that NORAD's missile launch warning data would be provided to the U.S.'s Northern Command, which operates the shield and makes the decision to launch interceptor missiles. NORAD could also provide a back door for greater Canadian involvement, such as hosting radar stations primarily designed for the missile shield. A major U.S. defence contractor, Raytheon, has explored locations for a missile defence radar station in Labrador.

### 4. The United States defines "homeland security" as encompassing all of North America.

The U.S. is using the threat of requiring high security documents like passports for border crossings, to pressure the Canadian government into complying with American security demands.

### 5. Civil rights are being restricted.

More than 30,000 people have been put on the U.S. "no-fly" list. These people include peace activists, civil rights lawyers and writers opposed to U.S. foreign policy. Similarly, in August 2005, Transport Canada and CSIS announced they were creating their own "no-fly" list.

*This federal election, demand that candidates continue to say "no" to Ballistic Missile Defence, and work to re-establish Canada's role as a peacekeeper – both at home and abroad.*

Visit [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org) to download the Council of Canadians' Voter's Guide, and see where the parties stand on peace and security. Or call 1-800-387-7177 for more information.