

June 4, 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
The Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Canada's Role in Nuclear Non-Proliferation

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in effect since 1970, is the only binding multilateral treaty with the goal of nuclear disarmament by the nuclear-weapon states.

In order to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and work toward complete disarmament, 190 parties have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. The United Nations states that "More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance." Every five years NPT talks take place to assess what progress has been made over the past 45 years, after which a document which details future action is signed. At the 2015 Review Conference recently held in New York, Canada was among those countries which declined to sign this document.

The National Council of Women of Canada strongly urges the Government to reconsider its position and to work toward a world free of nuclear weapons. The 1996 ruling of the International Court of Justice stated that all countries have an obligation under international law to conclude negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,

National Council of Women of Canada

Karen Monnon Dempsey
Karen Monnon Dempsey, President

cc: The Hon. Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P., Minister of National Defence
The Hon. Rob Nicholson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
Hon. Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

The National Council of Women of Canada is a federation comprised of Local Councils, Provincial Councils, and National Organizations. Founded in 1893, it was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1914 and has been designated by the Government of Canada as being of national historic significance for its role in Canadian women's history. For more information, please consult our web site at www.ncwcanada.com