



To SCAN! Toronto members:

There are two current initiatives regarding Toronto City Council. As we approach the City for the first time as SCAN! Toronto, we need to make it clear that we are a regional group which is part of a larger organization. For that reason, it is important to ensure that whether we speak at a meeting, to a councillor, or even to the mayor, that we introduce the organization first and then our specific issue.

The budget working group will be attending meetings to represent our climate “asks” as they relate to the budget as a whole. The working group will prepare background information for SCAN! Toronto participants.

SCAN! Toronto is also launching a campaign to have the City withdraw from the Toronto Air Show.

We are encouraging members to approach their city councillor with a view to soliciting their support. The working group in consultation with the SCAN! Toronto steering committee will look at taking this request directly to Mayor Chow.

The Cancel the Air Show working group has written a briefing note (below) to the attention of City councillors.

If you are able to set up a meeting, this briefing note is background information. **Please send it to your councillor prior to the meeting.**

If you have questions or would like someone to join you, please contact the Toronto Air Show Group – Mark Leith: mark.leith510@gmail.com; Pramila Aggarwal: 534wind@gmail.com; Peggy Lathwell: mlathwell@gmail.com; brooke Lydbrooke: z_ms@hotmail.com

Briefing Note - Air Show Campaign

[Seniors for Climate Action Now!](#) (SCAN!) is an activist group calling for emergency climate action at all levels of government. SCAN! Toronto, the Toronto regional group of SCAN! is launching a campaign to get a motion before Toronto city council to have the City of Toronto withdraw from hosting the air show.

There have been petitions in the past to effect this change. There are many reasons why people in Toronto have opposed the Air Show: noise pollution, air pollution and the promotion of military weapons. In terms of noise pollution, it has been pointed out that people who have fled countries at war are terrified by what others consider to be entertainment.

SCAN! is concerned with both the military aspect and the link to the climate emergency.

Who profits?

The company that profits by the Air Show is Lockheed Martin. This American company, with a profit of \$6.97 billion in 2023, makes it the most profitable arms company in the world. Its Canadian air show is an advertising marketing vehicle. Lockheed Martin uses to sell its jet fighters to the Canadian government. The Canadian government has committed \$19 billions of Canadian's taxpayer dollars to the purchase of a fleet of F-35 jet fighters.

The Public Relations department of Lockheed Martin promotes the Air Show as a tradition of families gathering at the lakeside to watch the exciting maneuvers of glittering planes in the Labour Day sky.

The reality is that these are wantonly destructive weapons that are capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

The noise level of the F-35 is 115dB. The level at which damage occurs in human hearing is 70dB. The noise pollution from the Air Show is hugely disruptive and traumatizing to the residents of Toronto. But noise pollution, while an unacceptable intrusion, does not carry the existential consequences that the other aspects of the Air Show do. These consequences are the climate emergency, the increasing militarization of the world, and nuclear war.

The climate emergency: follow the money

In terms of emissions pollution, a F-35 tank of jet fuel produces the equivalent of twenty-eight tons of carbon dioxide. It is contradictory to government climate action measures to promote this level of pollution as a form of civic entertainment

Global military expenditures have grown 3.7 percent over the past year to reach a total of \$2.3 trillion. Under pressure from NATO, particularly from the United States, Canada has agreed to increase its military budget to 2 percent of GDP. The budget for the Canadian military in 2023 is \$36.7 billion or 1.29 per cent of GDP. Adding 0.7 seven percentage points to reach the two per cent mark this year will mean an extra \$20 billion in spending.

Military spending depletes the funding necessary to pay for the mitigation and adaption of the climate emergency.

War and climate

Militarism makes the world more dangerous. The history of warfare proves, beyond doubt, that the greater number and size of weapons, the greater the chance of destructive violence and war. Research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association has demonstrated the same relationship between high levels of gun ownership and injury and death caused by gun violence. The same principle applies to all armaments, from small arms to nuclear missiles.

The final issue is nuclear war. Despite the fact that Toronto was declared a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in 1983, Lockheed Martin's F-35s have the capability to carry nuclear weapons, making the F-35s in contempt of the peace-seeking intent of the Toronto City Council.

Lockheed Martin has a lucrative relationship with NATO, selling it billions of dollars' worth of both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons.

Mayor Chow has in the past spoken out against Canadian involvement in American military misadventures and has been a champion of the environment. Mayor Chow endorsed a climate action campaign during the mayoral election. Council has signed on to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

SCAN! Toronto hopes the Council and the mayor will support the motion.

Saying "no" to the air show reflects the desire of many Toronto residents who say no to the destructive madness of militarism; that their right to survival will not be compromised by those who are capable of destroying the world.