

Motion on War and Climate

Preamble

Through our recent discussions, we have come to understand that war, militarism and environmental destruction are interrelated.

When we advocate for climate action people may ask how we can afford to pay for it.

Our response can be to point out, among other things, that militarism is a big part of the Canadian budget; and while peace is an important part of achieving global unity to solve the climate crisis, so too is working toward shifting resources from the military towards the human needs of the climate emergency.

It is also important to point out that Canada cannot solve the global climate crisis on its own. People may not realize that Canada has one of the world's largest per capita emissions. We have a responsibility to reduce our emissions and clean up our own back yard. But Canada must also play a role in building global unity to deal with climate change, if we hope to be successful.

Like other climate action organizations, we will have to address Canada's responsibility to the rest of the world, in particular to the Global South.

As we advocate in our communities for climate action, we may also be confronted with anti-migrant sentiment and opposition to opening our borders to those fleeing war and climate/environmental destruction. We need to continue to make the connection - the way these two factors interact and give rise to each other, creating millions of refugees from both war and climate destruction. Canada has a responsibility to climate/war refugees who are suffering the impacts of emissions we have created.

We recognize:

That Canada has clear obligations to act on the international stage for global climate action and an obligation to nations who are suffering the greatest impact of GHG emissions that we have created; and

That SCAN!'s platform clearly states "Canada must commit to including the operations of all armed forces in GHG reduction programs and targets"; and "Canada should redirect the funding from fighter jets to climate mitigation and abatement priorities"; and that Canada should adopt and promote a "human security" approach to climate action that shifts resources from the military towards the human needs of the climate emergency; and

That we have addressed the question: How can we fight the climate crisis in the midst of global warfare, and an intensifying arms race and nuclear expansion?; and

That oil is the fundamental fuel for militaries around the world: it fuels competition for oil sources and therefore war. It also underlies the continued use of oil itself; and

That SCAN! acknowledges that the total military carbon footprint is approximately 5.5% of global emissions; and global spending on military is enormous - \$2.1 trillion in 2021 - while poverty and deprivation grow each year; and

That militarism and the arms race are intensifying around the world.

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We further conclude:

- that the climate emergency
 - creates climate refugees and propels mass migration due to extreme weather, drought and scarcity of water
 - sets the stage for increasing military conflicts while at the same time interfering with international action to stop climate warming
 - heightens international tensions;
- that unless the world unites in the call for peace, it will be impossible to bring about a fundamental change in climate warming
- that climate action includes the demand for social justice and economic transformation and the opportunity, as well as the need, to address the safety and security of individuals and communities, everywhere on earth.

And we resolve that:

SCAN! will form a committee that researches the relation between war, climate and militarism and proposes policies and measures that SCAN! can take to promote these views within the context of our call for emergency climate action.

It will assist us to understand how, as we confront the challenges posed by a warming world, we will advocate for:

- **Canada to play a leading role in advocating for world peace and the end of hostilities as part of its international responsibilities to work with all countries to solve the climate crisis**
- **Canada to call for the global military budget (\$2 trillion plus) to be redirected toward solving the climate crisis and global poverty**
- **Canada to work toward reducing military budgets consistent with a "human security" approach to climate action that shifts resources from the military towards the human needs of the climate emergency**