

Canadian Policy

Canada no longer possesses chemical weapons. Some years ago, Canada advised the international community of the destruction of the bulk usable agents stockpiled for possible retaliatory use during the Second World War, and a program is now under way to destroy the small residual quantities of toxic materials in a manner consistent with Canada's high health, safety and environmental standards.

Canada is a party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use in war of chemical (and also biological) weapons. Subsequent Canadian policy statements have clearly emphasized that Canada does not intend at any time to initiate the use of chemical weapons; nor does Canada intend to develop, produce, acquire or stockpile such weapons unless they are used against the military forces or the civil population of Canada or its allies.

On a wider scale, Canada is working towards an all-nation, worldwide and everlasting ban on chemical weapons. To this end, Canada is an active participant in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, where there is consensus that a global ban is within reach.

Until that goal is achieved, and because of the threat proliferation poses, Canada has taken measures, in consultation with other countries, to ensure that Canadian industry does not contribute, directly or inadvertently, to the problem.

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