

Candidates Questionnaire

by E.Reynolds

101,803 Canadians have made a pledge to 'vote Canada out of the arms race' with this federal election.

The Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign, composed of over 150 peace groups across the country, have the final tally of collected pledges and to celebrate, the Halifax chapter held a social tea/press conference last Saturday at the YWCA. The total pledges collected locally comes to 5672.

The task now at hand is the distribution of the candidate's answers to a 12-point questionnaire on peace issues. Mary Clancy, Ray Larkin and Stewart McInnis have all given their answers and comments which shows voters where each candidate stands on peace and disarmament issues in this election. Here are the questions and the answers:

Qualifying comments

1 should be done internationally rather than unilaterally.

2&3 should concentrate on resolving causes of world tensions, not simply washing one's hands of distasteful activities.

4 does favour maintaining conventional defense forces and keeping these forces well equipped.

5 changes to NATO policies can best be made from within rather than without. Would support a review of NATO's strategies with regards to the first strike.

6 NDP are willing to subsidize Canadian defense needs but not nuclear weapons related systems. * Mr McInnis did not give a personal response; he requested that the National PC responses be used.

If elected would you:

1. Actively work to end every aspect of Canada's support for the nuclear arms race - making Canada a nuclear weapons free zone?

2. Support immediate cancellation of the cruise missile testing program in Canada?

3. Oppose use of Canadian airspace for testing and training nuclear war-fighting aircraft?

4. Demand that all foreign warships confirm that they are not armed with nuclear weapons before being allowed to enter Canadian waters?

5. Oppose the sale of uranium and tritium to nuclear weapons producing countries unless they have a clear policy of completely separating their military and civilian nuclear programs?

6. Do you believe the Canadian government should firmly oppose any Canadian involvement in the Strategic Defense Initiative and the Air Defense Initiative?

7. Oppose the expenditure of billions of dollars for Canada to buy nuclear-powered submarines?

8. Support an end to subsidies for military industries through the Defense Industry Productivity Program, and support efforts to convert from military to non-military production?

9. Oppose any aspect of the free trade agreement that encourages military production in Canada, or that lessens our independence in foreign and defense policies?

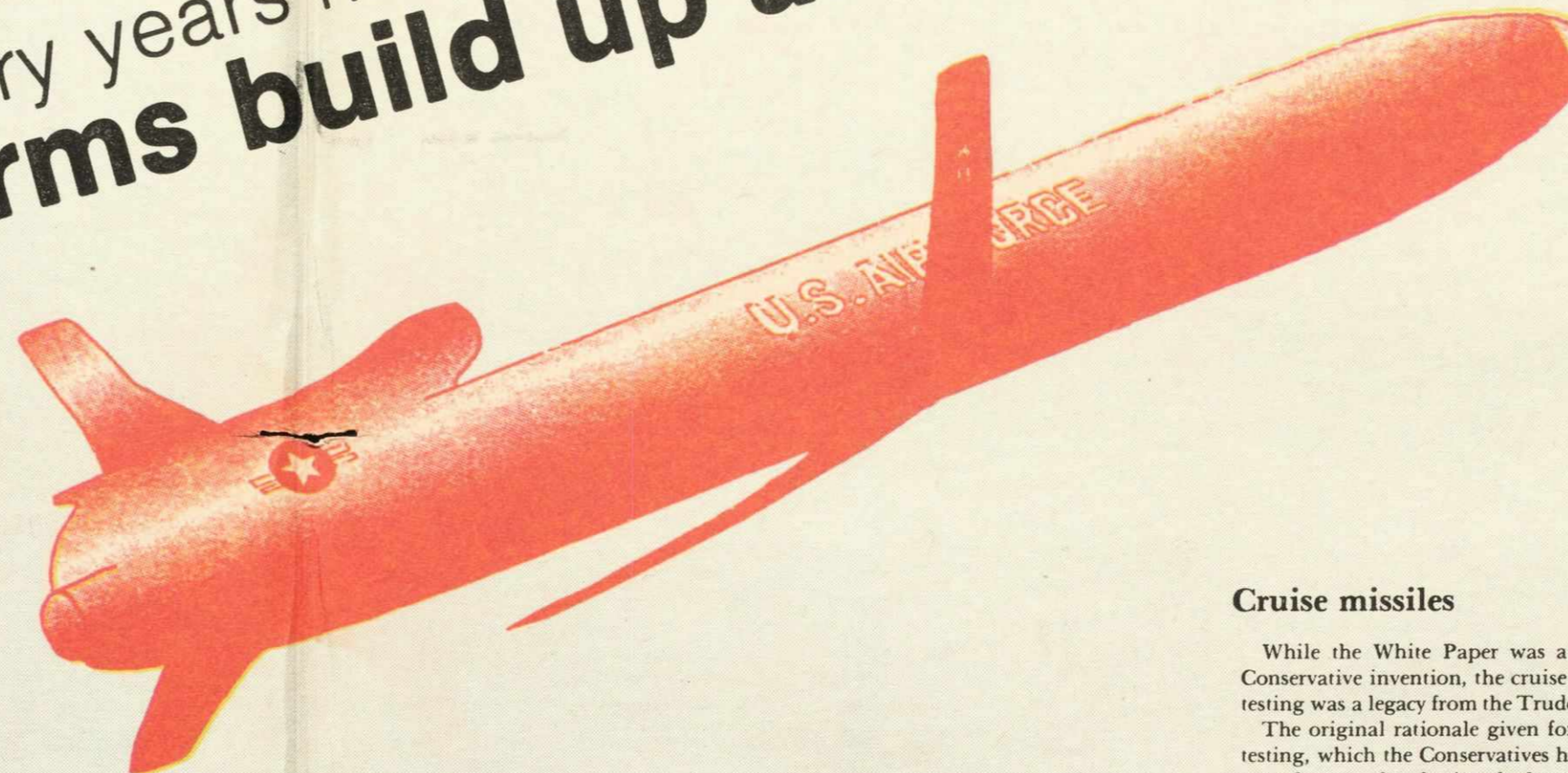
10. Publicly support an immediate halt to nuclear weapons testing and the negotiation of a complete test ban on all nuclear weapons tests?

11. Oppose the NATO policy of first use of nuclear weapons?

12. Do you believe Canada should pursue an agreement with other Northern countries for demilitarized zone for the Arctic?

	Mary Clancy Lib.	Stewart McInnis P.C.*	Ray Larkin N.D.P.
1. Actively work to end every aspect of Canada's support for the nuclear arms race - making Canada a nuclear weapons free zone?	Yes ¹	No	Yes
2. Support immediate cancellation of the cruise missile testing program in Canada?	Yes	No	Yes
3. Oppose use of Canadian airspace for testing and training nuclear war-fighting aircraft?	No ²	No	Yes
4. Demand that all foreign warships confirm that they are not armed with nuclear weapons before being allowed to enter Canadian waters?	No ³	No	Yes
5. Oppose the sale of uranium and tritium to nuclear weapons producing countries unless they have a clear policy of completely separating their military and civilian nuclear programs?	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. Do you believe the Canadian government should firmly oppose any Canadian involvement in the Strategic Defense Initiative and the Air Defense Initiative?	Yes	No	Yes
7. Oppose the expenditure of billions of dollars for Canada to buy nuclear-powered submarines?	Yes	No	Yes
8. Support an end to subsidies for military industries through the Defense Industry Productivity Program, and support efforts to convert from military to non-military production?	No ⁴	No	No ⁶
9. Oppose any aspect of the free trade agreement that encourages military production in Canada, or that lessens our independence in foreign and defense policies?	Yes	No	Yes
10. Publicly support an immediate halt to nuclear weapons testing and the negotiation of a complete test ban on all nuclear weapons tests?	Yes	Yes	Yes
11. Oppose the NATO policy of first use of nuclear weapons?	Yes ⁵	No	Yes
12. Do you believe Canada should pursue an agreement with other Northern countries for demilitarized zone for the Arctic?	Yes	No	Yes

Tory years have seen arms build up and up and up



By James Young, Canadian University Press Vancouver

Following his election victory in September 1984, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney smiled his broad smile and spoke in the smooth, carefully modulated tones that would become so familiar over the next four years. With Mila at his side, the prime minister modestly congratulated Canadians on their choice, and launched into a theme he had used frequently during the campaign.

"There is no cause more urgent and more necessary for your government than the reduction of the threat of war and to further the cause of peace," intoned Mulroney, acknowledging the tremendous responsibility the nuclear age had thrust upon its leaders.

The prime minister went on to remind his audience that peacemaking was a Canadian tradition. Brian Mulroney doesn't talk so much about peace these days. Well into the 1988 election campaign, neither Mulroney nor his defence minister Perrin Beatty will agree to a televised debate on the country's defence policies.

In fact, when peace activists recently tried to question Mulroney on Canada's proposed fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, they didn't get any answers — they got arrested instead.

At an October 12 Conservative rally in the Toronto area, activists Bob Penner and David Kraft shouted their questions at the prime minister, who told them: "If you let me speak, I'll let you speak."

But after agreeing, the two were arrested, carried from the building and held for 90 minutes at a Toronto police station.

A spokesperson for the prime minister later said the arrests were the result of over-zealous party workers. Whatever the reason, the activists were frustrated once again in their attempts to tell the prime minister why they were critical of the government's policies.

Honeymoon and nuclear freeze

The relationship between the Canadian peace movement and the Mulroney government didn't start off so badly. Soon

after the 1984 election, Mulroney appointed Conservative MP Doug Roche as Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, a position which the last Liberal government had left vacant.

In an even more surprising move, the government appointed former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis as ambassador to the United Nations, where he would lead a passionate defence of the institution itself and international approaches to peacemaking.

But in November 1984, the honeymoon turned sour. That month, 111 members of the United Nations — including Australia, Denmark and Greece — voted in favour of a global, verifiable freeze on nuclear weapons testing and development. Canada was one of 12 western nations opposing the resolution.

Prior to the election, a poll showed 94 per cent of Progressive Conservative candidates supported a nuclear freeze.

The government now argues that the U.N. resolution was not practical, as rules for verifying the agreement had not been adequately negotiated.

Beyond this, the Conservatives voiced fears of offending the Reagan administration.

"Adding Canada's voice to this motion would have had the effect of creating tensions with the (NATO) Alliance" external affairs minister Joe Clark told the House of Commons.

Nuclear test ban

The peace movement was also disappointed on other international arms control measures. The government had argued that its support for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing demonstrated its strong

commitment to peace.

But during the current term, the Conservatives abstained on three different resolutions aimed at promoting quick progress on a nuclear test ban.

Instead, Canada supported a resolution calling for "practical work" towards a test ban. Critics see this motion as bureaucratic stalling.

In Canada's other major political forum, the government supported the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's "First-Use" policy, which allows Canada's allies to use nuclear weapons against a conventional attack in Europe. Activists argued that Canada should work instead for a policy of "No-First-Use" of nuclear weapons, which the Soviet Union adopted in 1982.

Nuclear subs

The government came out with its own analysis of international security in its June, 1987, White Paper on Defence, presenting a hawkish, cold-war view. The route to Canadian security lay mainly in spending more money on military hardware.

The key purchase would be a fleet of 10 to 12 nuclear-powered, hunter-killer attack submarines, costing anywhere from \$8 to \$16 billion. The government said the fleet would secure Canada's three oceans, including patrols under the treacherous Arctic ice.

Critics were alarmed, believing the subs would be caught up in provocative American strategies, such as attacking Soviet submarines near their home ports during an international crisis.

Environmentalists were worried about the possibility of nuclear accident, while arms control experts became concerned the subs could damage the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a U.N. document pledging the restriction of nuclear weapons technology.

The White Paper also committed more of the country's tax dollars to the military — about \$200 billion over 15 years, or a real increase of about two per cent per year.

Cruise missiles

While the White Paper was a purely Conservative invention, the cruise missile testing was a legacy from the Trudeau era.

The original rationale given for cruise testing, which the Conservatives had supported, was the Soviet deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe. But that reason disappeared in September 1987, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed to destroy such missiles.

With the superpower agreement, Liberal leader John Turner announced he would now oppose the cruise, but the Conservatives didn't budge, now citing NATO solidarity and Soviet cruise missiles as their reasons for testing.

The weapon itself was changing, too. Defence minister Perrin Beatty was fond of telling Canadians that the slow-flying cruise would be used only in a retaliatory strike.

But in early 1988, John Barrett, deputy director of the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, told the government that technological advances in the cruise — in speed, accuracy, range, and the ability to evade Soviet radar — would bring the cruise into the most destabilizing category of a first-strike weapon.

Bombers, warships

The cruise was not the only weapon brought into Canada. Across the country, the peace movement protested low-level bomber tests and the presence of nuclear-armed warships in Canadian harbours, both of which the government said were NATO commitments.

When Vancouver peace groups voiced concerns about the warships and the possibility of a nuclear accident, senior cabinet minister Pat Carney replied with an amazing example of bureaucratic baffle-gab.

"Vancouver is nuclear free," Carney told her constituents. "The presence of the ships does not change that fact."

Free Trade and a militarized economy

A final issue was whether Conservative leadership would militarize the economy,

leaving more Canadian jobs dependent on military production.

At a time when universities were becoming more strapped for other federal research funds, the Department of National Defence announced it would increase military research on campus by 40 per cent in real terms, from \$7.4 million in 1985 to \$12 million in 1991.

Another federal program, the Defence Industry Productivity Program, increased subsidies to military producers, reaching \$190 million in 1986-87.

But the two most serious economic effects will come from the free trade deal, researchers say.

On one hand, as the Financial Post newspaper remarked, military industry is "one of the more glaring gaps" of the trade deal, since the agreement "failed to expand or secure Canada's decades-old special interest" to the U.S. military market.

Thus, Canada may have to come forward with more political favours — such as additional weapons tests — if it wishes to maintain its unrestricted access to the U.S. military market.

On the other hand, the free trade deal could make Canada's industrial strategy more dependent on military production.

In general, the deal views subsidies as unfair competition, but support to military industry will be an exception, critics say. The deal could create the bizarre scenario where Canada would be allowed to subsidize Liton Industries to make missile guidance systems, but be prohibited from helping create furniture factories or steel mills for the civilian economy.

Since Brian Mulroney doesn't want to debate defence policies, peace groups are now pursuing their own 1988 election strategies.


Taking the Protestant Reformer Martin Luther as a role model, the Ottawa-based group Operation Dismantle is urging supporters to go to local Conservative party headquarters and symbolically nail a list of "Ten potentially deadly sins" to the door.

Another organization, the 400-member umbrella group the Canadian Peace Alliance, has identified seven issues it believes would promote world peace, and polled the three federal parties.

Without endorsing any one party, the campaign shows the Liberals support four of these policies. The NSP gives qualified support to one proposal (declaring Canada a nuclear weapons-free zone) and full support to the other six. The Conservatives, as their record would suggest, give qualified support to only one of the proposals, the Comprehensive Test Ban.

1. Support for a Canadian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone: Conservatives; no. Liberals; no. NDP; yes (qualified support).
2. Opposition to Nuclear-Powered Submarines: Conservatives; no. Liberals; yes. NDP; yes.
3. Opposition to Cruise Missile Testing: Conservatives; no. Liberals; yes. NDP; yes.
4. Opposition to Star Wars (Strategic Defense Initiative): Conservatives; no (oppose direct government involvement only). Liberals; yes. NDP; yes.
5. Support for a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban: Conservatives; yes (qualified support). Liberals; yes. NDP; yes.


**THIS IS MORE THAN AN ELECTION,
IT'S YOUR FUTURE**


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Your Halifax- Metro Candidates

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Mike Kelly - Halifax West
Ron McDonald - Dartmouth

On Nov. 21st - Vote Liberal


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