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# Strike squeezes students



## Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign

# Pressuring for **peace** vote

by Ellen Reynolds

A national campaign whose objective it is to "vote Canada out of the arms race" has been collecting pledges from Canadians to vote, in the November 21 federal election, *only* for a candidate who actively supports an end to the nuclear arms race. The Halifax chapter of the Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign was inspired by an April 1988 visit of renowned peace activist Dr. Helen Caldicott, a world leader in the disarmament movement.

As part of a network of over 150 peace and disarmament organizations, the Halifax group has collected over 5500 pledges since April. They use the signed pledges to pressure the government to recognize peace as an election issue and to take a vocal stand. The campaign is used to show politicians the support there is for disarmament in Canada and to allow Canadians to see

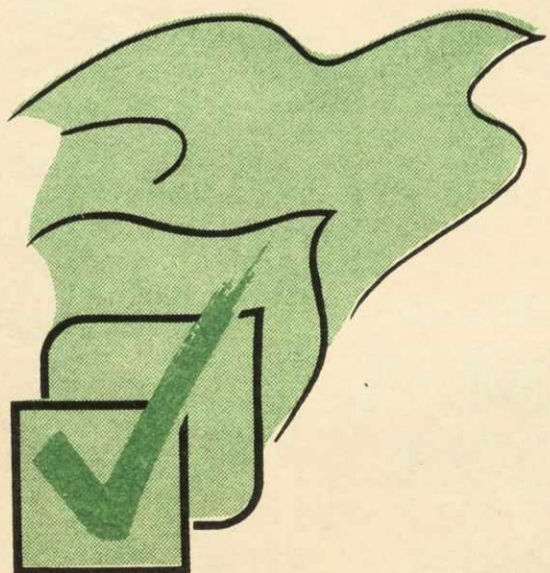
where the candidates stand on peace issues.

A 12 point Candidate's Questionnaire the campaign sent to federal candidates demands yes or no answers on specific questions concerning peace. The answers to this questionnaire will be presented publicly November 12. According to local campaign spokesperson Peter Davison, the style of the presentation has not yet been decided. The Conservative, New Democrat and Liberal federal candidates were polled and, along with the final tabulation of pledges, the candidates' answers will be made public, says Davison.

Canada supports the nuclear arms race in a variety of ways — from cruise missile testing in Alberta to allowing nuclear armed submarines into the Halifax harbour. In October '88 the campaign called for national protests after the government admitted that they are delaying a

decision on the purchase of a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines planned for in the government's "Defence White Paper". The Halifax group participated on October 8 in National Action Day in three locations in Metro asking Nova Scotians where they would like to see their tax dollars spent — to buy nuclear-powered submarines or to fund social services, education and the environment. The results from across the country were sent to federal Defence Minister Perrin Beatty and distributed to the national press. Locally, out of 761 people asked, 673 were in favour of funding social services over the 88 who would rather see the money spent on buying nuclear submarines.

Recently, the Peace Pledge Campaign commissioned an Angus Reid poll which revealed that seven out of ten Canadians were more likely to vote for a candidate who emphasizes peace issues.



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