

## **Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention Urges Canadian Leadership in Abolishing Nuclear Weapons**

The first observance, on Sept. 26, 2014, of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons calls attention to the 16,300 nuclear weapons still in existence and the urgent need to start international work on a global law to prohibit and eliminate all nuclear weapons.

Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (CNWC), urges the Government of Canada to implement the 2010 motion, adopted unanimously by Parliament, to support the UN Secretary-General's Five Point Plan for nuclear disarmament centering on a nuclear weapons convention.

With a Biological Weapons Convention and a Chemical Weapons Convention in place, banning the possession and use of biological and chemical weapons, it is time to construct a legal framework for the verified, irreversible and enforceable prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, the worst form of weapons of mass destruction. A model nuclear weapons convention already exists as a UN document, and three-quarters of the states at the UN have voted to commence comprehensive negotiations. Canada should join this majority opinion in the world. States and civil society leaders have recently met in Norway and Mexico and spelled out the "catastrophic humanitarian consequences" awaiting humanity in the accidental or deliberate use of nuclear weapons. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the largest assembly of parliamentarians in the world, recently urged to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or on a package of agreements to help achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Almost 800 recipients of the Order of Canada have called on the Canadian government to take a leadership role in helping to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world. Canada should a major world-wide diplomatic initiative advance a comprehensive and legally binding framework to eliminate all nuclear weapons in a defined time period.

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