



CANADIAN NETWORK TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Le Réseau canadien pour l'abolition des armes nucléaires

CNANW Annual Meeting 2025 - Chair's Report

E. Turcotte, Oct. 19, 2025

A Tribute

On behalf of the full membership of the CNANW, I wish to acknowledge and express our deep gratitude for the tremendous contribution made our movement over many years by the late Dr. Adele Buckley. Adele was a truly remarkable woman whose knowledge, wisdom and compassion helped guide our work for decades. It was a great honour to have her within our ranks for so long. Adele is and will continue to be, sorely missed.

The Network

I wish, as well, to warmly thank all members of the Steering Committee and Advisory Council for their valuable work and strong support throughout the year.

Particular thanks are owed to Bev DeLong who continues to carry an enormous workload within the Network. Bev chaired the CNANW for **21** years, and her ongoing work makes so much of what we do, possible.

We are most grateful as well to others who have chaired the Network over the years – The Honourable Douglas Roche our founding Chairperson, Dr. Sylvie Lemieux and Mr. Robin Collins who co-chaired from 2021 to 2023, Dr. Jonathan Down who assumed the Chair's responsibilities in 2024, until health issues forced him to step back, and Dr. John Guilfoyle who steered the ship on an interim basis, until mid-April 2025.

I - Election of the Steering Committee

Steering Committee members are elected or, if there are not more candidates than positions available, are appointed for a two - year term. The most recent exercise was in early May of this year for the 2025 -2027 term.

As there were fewer candidates than positions, there was no need to put the matter to a vote.

On behalf of CNANW membership, I convey our great appreciation to all members who served throughout the 2023-2025 term and welcome the appointment, or re-appointment in most cases, of the following individuals:

Dr. Sylvie Lemieux, Dr. Nancy Covington, Dr. Erika Simpson, Mr. Cesar Jaramillo, Mr. Robin Collins, Dr. Richard Denton, Dr. John Guilfoyle, Dr. Arnd Jurgensen and our new youth representative, Ms. Marissa Hum, whom we are delighted to have with us. Bev remains on the Steering Committee as a life member.

Treasurer

Our deep thanks as well to Mr. Rob Acheson, who provided the Network with excellent service as treasurer for most of the past decade, and to Dr. Erika Simpson who has agreed to assume the position, in addition to her work on the Steering Committee.

Advisory Council

We are also extremely happy that Ms. Debbie Grisdale has kindly accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to join other eminent members on the CNANW Advisory Council: The Hon. Douglas Roche O.C., Mr. Ernie Regher, and former Ambassadors Peggy Mason and Paul Meyer. Debbie has been a long-standing pillar of support and engagement in the CNANW and the broader peace movement. It is wonderful to have her back in a formal capacity.

New Member Organization

We also welcome **Peace Train Canada** (PTC) to our ranks. PTC's vision is that "Canada becomes an independent middle power that is invested in and committed to promoting a culture of peace and resisting the culture of war." To this end, they have been actively lobbying the Government of Canada to establish a Centre of Excellence for Peace and Justice, focused on research, education, training in conflict resolution, diplomacy, and peace operations. PTC places high priority on nuclear disarmament, which would feature prominently in the work of their proposed Centre of Excellence.

CNANW Chairperson

I was honoured in March of this year when the Steering Committee invited me resume the responsibilities of Chairperson for the current term. Having chaired the Network from 2019 – 2021, I am mid- way through my third year. Given other commitments, I am able to serve for a one-year term this time, which ends in mid-April.

We hope to identify a new Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons as soon as possible. If anyone is interested in the position or would like to nominate someone else, please make this known to the Steering Committee at your earliest convenience.

CNANW Activities

Our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to take stock of what we've done over the past year, - activities and accomplishments, as well as the things we have not done – in order to adjust our strategy and maximize effectiveness in the coming year.

Many of the individual member organizations of the Network undertake their own discrete activities to advance nuclear disarmament, which we look forward to hearing about at the Annual Meeting on October 25th.

Following is a summary of some of the activities and developments at the Network level since our last Annual Meeting in 2024.

Roundtable - 2024

One year ago, the CNANW, along with Canadian Leadership for Nuclear Disarmament (then known as Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention), the Canadian Pugwash Group (CPG) and Project Ploughshares, co-hosted the 2024 Roundtable entitled “**Nuclear Disarmament in Times of Unprecedented Risk**”.

Participants produced a five-point agenda for renewed Canadian action on nuclear disarmament, with corresponding recommendations that were sent to the Prime Minister, to other relevant Ministers and to Global Affairs Canada:

1. Prioritize Nuclear Disarmament in Canadian Security and Foreign Policies;
2. Promote a Shift in NATO's Nuclear Doctrine;
3. Engage in Urgent Diplomatic and Risk Reduction Efforts;
4. Prevent Further Erosion of the NPT Regime;
5. Advance a Framework for Alternative Security Arrangements.

A year hence, these recommendations remain just as relevant.

Joint CNANW – Canadian Pugwash Group Educational Session - 2024

This event, also held last autumn, focused on Common Security and how to promote risk reduction and achieve nuclear disarmament.

Guest speakers were Peggy Mason, President of the Rideau Institute and Steering Committee member Robin Collins on Common Security, and Dr. Ira Helfand of ICAN, Daniel Barbarie of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Paul Maillet a retired Air Force Colonel, and Paul Meyer, a Fellow in International Security and Adjunct Professor of International Studies at Simon Fraser University, on risk reduction and how to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Civil Society Consultations with Global Affairs Canada - 2024

In November, numerous members of the Network participated in full-day, formal consultations with Global Affairs Canada. ADM David Angel made a statement and participated for part of morning. There were **27** other representatives from GAC, some from International Security and Strategic Affairs Bureau, most from the Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Space Division. One was with the International Cyber and Emerging Technology Division and another the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN in Geneva.

Global Affairs cited their work at First Committee and in all Arms Control and Disarmament (ACD) Forums governing conventional and Weapons of Mass Destruction. They noted in particular, Canada's longstanding (though, to date, unsuccessful) effort to persuade states to negotiate a 'Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty' (FMCT), as well as Canada's engagement with the 1980 'Vienna Group of Ten', the 2010 'Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative' and the 2019 'Stockholm Initiative' that continues to urge Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) to pursue nuclear disarmament, albeit on a "step-by-step" basis.

The agenda for the consultations addressed the following questions:

- How to address backsliding in disarmament and arms control agreements?

- How to move beyond consensus driven policy that often results in the lowest common denominator?
- How to engage in NACD matters in in both a responsive and proactive manner?
- How to avoid further fracturing of NACD positions?
- How to put additional pressure on nuclear weapons states?
- How can civil society be most effective in the process?
- What areas of disarmament are most ripe for action/improvement?
- How to garner attention for disarmament issues in the midst of numerous other global challenges?
- Where is there opportunity for collaboration between governments, between government and civil society and between different national civil societies?

As anticipated, there was a rich discussion and candid exchange of views.

Inter alia, civil society pressed Global Affairs to urge our political leaders to allow Canada to be more proactive and forceful in its Arms Control and Disarmament (ACD) work, to challenge NATO's nuclear security doctrine and to press NATO Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) to engage all other NWS and their allies in discussion, leading - either to accession to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, (TPNW) or to negotiation of a new, legally binding instrument that will achieve the same objective – the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of an effective means of verification to ensure sustained compliance. And to do so on an urgent basis.

It was noted that the 'step- by – step' approach is simply not working. Indeed, NWS are back-sliding by modernizing and, in several cases, expanding their arsenals and delivery systems.

We expect that formal consultations between GAC and civil society will take place again in January 2026.

UN Resolution

CNANW supported the call for a UN Resolution “To establish an independent Scientific panel on the Effects of Nuclear War, consisting of 21 members, participating in their personal capacity, to be appointed by the Secretary General,

tasked with examining the physical effects and societal consequences of a nuclear war on a local, regional and planetary scale, including, *inter alia*, the climatic, environmental and radiological effects and their impacts on public health, global socioeconomic systems, agriculture and ecosystems, in the days, weeks and decades following a nuclear war”.

Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW

CNANW lobbied the Government of Canada to attend the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW in March of 2025, as an official Observer. A ‘Call’ was issued to: Madame Joly, MFA, David Angell, ADM GAC, Alison Grant, Daniel Barbarie, Neil Brennan and copied to Kirsten Mosey also with GAC. It was also sent to M.P. Ali Ehsassi, Chairperson, and all other members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. Regrettably, Canada declined to attend the meeting.

The CNANW will renew efforts to engage Canada in the TPNW, including attending next year’s First Review Conference as an official Observer and acknowledging the complementarity between the TPNW and the Nuclear-Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Divestment Project

Dr. Sylvie Lemieux, Dr. Richard Denton and Bev DeLong continue to contribute to the international effort to promote institutional financial divestment from any activity that directly or indirectly contributes to the development, production, deployment, threat of use or use of nuclear weapons.

The Hon. Douglas Roche O.C. Common Security Project

Dr. Sylvie Lemieux and Dr. Arnd Jurgensen recently launched the subject competition that offers sizable awards to graduate level university students who produce essays or videos regarding Common Security as a viable alternative to the nuclear security doctrine.

Letter to the Prime Minister

On May 22, 2025 the CNANW wrote to Prime Minister Carney (letter attached) outlining the critical state of affairs with respect to nuclear weapons, urging Canada to make nuclear disarmament a priority, and to play a leadership role

internationally. Among other things, it was hoped that the Canada, as current President of the G7, might broach the issue at the G7 meeting in Kananaskis, last June. The letter was copied to M.P.s, Senators, Global Affairs and was distributed widely in civil society. It was also sent to the media under cover of a media release (attached). --- To our knowledge, nuclear disarmament was not raised at the meeting of the G7 and there has been no discernable change in Canada's position on nuclear disarmament by PM Carney's government.

80th Anniversary Commemorative Events

Ms. Debbie Grisdale and the CNANW Chairperson both spoke at a well-attended ceremony to commemorate this solemn anniversary, at Ottawa City Hall on August 6th. Organized by Debbie on behalf of 'Ban the Bomb – Ottawa' and the 'United Nations Association (UNA) National Capital Branch', the ceremony also featured speeches by Ottawa's mayor, Mr. Mark Sutcliffe, Minister- Counsellor Maruyama of the Japanese Embassy and Ms. Katherine White of the UNA. It was held concurrently with an exhibition of extremely moving posters depicting the horrific aftermath of the bombings, provided by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum with great assistance from Ms. Setsuko Thurlow of the Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition. These posters were also exhibited at St. John's Anglican Church and St. Basil's Church in Ottawa, as well as in 11 other cities across Canada. They are available for future events.

Op-Eds

Douglas Roche and Tariq Rauf – 9 May, 2024. Entitled "How Canada Can Regain Leadership in Nuclear Disarmament", examined the complementarity of the TPNW and NPT and a greater role for Canada. Published in the Hill Times

Robin Collins and Dr. Sylvie Lemieux – March 25th, 2024 "Why Two Percent". Published in the Hill Times.

Earl Turcotte – August 6th, on behalf of the CNANW on the 80th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Published in the Hill Times.

Media Releases

CNANW Media Release on May 15th accompanying the letter to the PM, with the heading “CNANW Urges Prime Minister Carney to make Nuclear Disarmament a Foreign Policy and National Defence Priority”. (attached)

CNANW Media Release on August 4th, following explicit threats by Russia to use nuclear weapons, with the heading “CNANW Condemns Nuclear Threats: Calls for De-escalation and Total Nuclear Disarmament.” (attached)

Upcoming Events

Roundtable 2025

This year’s Roundtable, chaired by former Ambassador Paul Meyer, is entitled “**Nuclear Disarmament in a Chaotic World**”. Once again, the CNANW is co-hosting the event with CLND, CPG and Project Ploughshares.

Some months ago, the CNANW Chairperson was appointed Chair of the Organizing Committee for the Roundtable. Other members of this ad hoc committee are Alex Neve, Bev DeLong, Sylvie Lemieux and Cesar Jaramillo. Though not a member (by choice) Robin Collins continues to provide excellent input and support.

In advance of the Roundtable, the Chair and Robin interviewed Austrian Ambassador for Disarmament and Arms Control, Alexander Kmentt, and Mr. Joseph Cirincione, adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and former President of the Ploughshares Fund (U.S.). Both gentlemen provided their assessment of the geo-political context within which we are working and suggestions regarding the challenges faced by proponents of nuclear disarmament. These interviews will be screened at the Roundtable on October 23rd.

CNANW will also participate in a strategy session following the Roundtable to identify the recommendations that will be sent to the PM and relevant Ministers.

Nuclear Disarmament Advocacy Forum 2025

To be held Saturday October 25th, this year's theme is "**Effective Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament: Understanding Your Adversary**". The main objective is to strengthen our capacity to advocate in support of nuclear disarmament by better understanding and developing effective counter-arguments to the nuclear deterrence doctrine.

Contributors: Col. Guy Roberts, a former official with NATO and the US on nuclear weapons policies, participated in a pre-taped interview conducted by Dr. Erika Simpson and Robin Collins. The interview will be screened at the beginning of the Forum.

Invitations to participate in this forum have also been sent to the Ambassadors of China, Kazakhstan, Ireland, Austria and Japan. To date, China has agreed to participate and will be represented by Minister-Counsellor Li Zhongzhou.

Mr. Alex Neve OC, Chairperson of Canadian Leadership for Nuclear Disarmament and former Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, has also kindly accepted to be a panelist as well. The event will be co-chaired by the Chairperson and Dr. Sylvie Lemieux.

Parliamentary Breakfast

The Chairperson, Alex Neve of CLND, and Bernie and Keith Wyton of Peace Train Canada have worked closely with Senator Marilou McPhedran and M.P. Gord Johns to organize a Parliamentary Breakfast to be held on October 22nd, that will address two issues: Nuclear Disarmament and PTC's proposal to establish a Centre of Excellence for Peace and Justice. The event will be co-hosted by Senator McPhedran and M.P.s Gord Johns, Elizabeth May, Adreanne Larouche and Dave Epp.

A Plea to Canadian Parliamentarians

The Chairperson has produced a summary of the current status of nuclear weapons, global tensions, and a potential role for Canada as a follow-on to our earlier Letter to the PM. It will be presented to the Steering Committee and, if agreed, distributed to parliamentarians at the Parliamentary Breakfast, and more widely.

Nuclear Close Calls

The Chairperson has compiled information on selected nuclear 'close calls' over the decades, which he proposes to accompany the Plea to Parliamentarians to raise their awareness of the number and nature of events nuclear 'close calls' that have brought humanity to the brink of disaster on many occasions.

Earl Turcotte – CNANW Chairperson

Ottawa, October 19, 2025