



**IPPNW
CANADA**

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Dear Fellow Countrymen,

Your role in safeguarding and promoting the health of all Canadians, and by extension, all of humanity is deeply appreciated. As physicians, we see your work as no less critical to the health of the those whom we are all so privileged to serve. From our perspective, health is not a partisan issue. Increasingly, we recognize that a society can only be truly healthy when all its members can realize their full potential.

The recent unveiling of the B21 bomber by Northrop Grumman proclaims that this changes everything. (<https://www.northropgrumman.com/what-we-do/air/b-21-raider/>). This statement is accurate.

This bomber will have the capacity to drop nuclear and conventional bombs on any target anywhere in the world within an hour without being detected. This gives US forces a weapon of unprecedented power. It threatens every facility that the US cares to attack in a way that cannot be defended. While touted as a means of ultimate deterrence, it is likely to do exactly the opposite as it will be seen as the ultimate means of attack.

It heralds a new and ominous chapter in the arms race where the so-called tactical use of nuclear weapons is firmly on the menu. Current geo-political tension will be exacerbated by the asymmetry that this will create.

The notion that nuclear weapons provide security and prevent war has been shown to be false. Countries that possess nuclear weapons can threaten their use to pursue agendas that are illegal and prevent efforts to enforce laws that are intended to protect all of humanity. This new weapon puts an end to the chimera of nuclear deterrence and accelerates an arms race that is now back in top gear.

As physicians, we are reminded daily that prevention trumps all that we can offer to keep people healthy. We face the same situation when we have a world that continues to manage conflict with violence. Nuclear weapons confirm our commitment to continue the barbarism that humans can inflict in our worst moments.

We must work toward the prevention of conflict. This goal, while aspirational to some, is already in focus with global agreements and efforts already in place. According to the Treaty on the Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons, these weapons are illegal and the world is committed to their removal. The B21 intends to make the threat of use of nuclear weapons more widespread and less detectable. This in contrary to the wishes of most of humanity and a flagrant disregard of international efforts to make humanity more secure and safe.

Finally, the cost, in human resources and money, is enormous. At least \$700 million USD for each plane of which at least 100 are to be built. This represents a diversion of resources away from the real challenges that humanity faces.

International Physicians for the
Prevention of Nuclear War*Canada*



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We fully realize that this is a decision of the USA in pursuit of its own interests. But as a much-vaunted ally and friend, Canada has a critical role to play. We can help our neighbours see that there are different pathways to peace and security. The child in the sandbox with the biggest stick can no longer dictate how we play together.

Canada has contributed to international security and peace making, perhaps, out of measure with our perceived place on the world stage. It is now time to re-affirm this commitment and to advocate for an end to this most egregious addition to the arms race.

Our peace and security, our health and well-being as a human family depends on how we treat each other and the planet that supports us all. This new weapons system has no place in a future where we are concerned about the well-being of all.

To this end we call on you to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force on January 22, 2021 and to join the majority of the world's nations to work towards nuclear disarmament. Ninety-one nations have already signed, Canada can lead those who are still hesitant. A peaceful world requires legal instruments that are observed and enforced, the TPNW is a critical step in this process.

In addition, please, put in place urgently an all party non-partisan process to develop a clear foreign policy on the where Canada stands on the use of this dreadful new weapon. We need to clearly articulate where we stand with this frightening new development and the consequent escalation of the arms race.

We owe our grandchildren and the rest of the planet no less.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Guilfoyle
IPPNWC Board Member