



Canadian Foreign and Defence Policy After October 2015: Green Party of Canada

1. Canada's commitment to United Nations Peace Operations.

QUESTIONS: Will your party support a significantly increased Canadian personnel commitment to United Nations Peace Operations? Will your party support the development of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service?

The Green Party will fully support the development of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service. We believe that Canada has strayed dangerously far from our peacemaking roots. That the United Nations (UN) General Assembly voted to deny Canada its traditional rotation on the Security Council should be a wake-up call that our global reputation is declining. The Green Party will restore Canada to its historic role as respected global citizen.

As part of these measures, the Green Party of Canada will re-establish Canada among the global leaders in peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and international diplomacy. Greens will re-align our defence spending - increasing the emphasis on disaster assistance, and shifting our focus toward UN Peacekeeping contributions.

2. Develop the international "Responsibility to Protect."

QUESTION: Will your party ensure that the next Government of Canada makes advancing the Responsibility to Protect a goal of its foreign policy?

The Green Party of Canada is committed to the United Nations' "responsibility to protect" (R2P) doctrine. Canada is well suited to contribute to practical, innovative means of civil-military cooperation and to provide essential support to deliver humanitarian and development assistance in complex conflict zones. The Green Party supports the role of the UN in diplomatic intervention and international peacekeeping, including acting with an R2P mandate in situations where a state is not protecting its own citizens, such as in Darfur.

However, the Green Party objects to certain missions being characterized, as R2P. Elizabeth May's was the sole vote against the continued bombing of Libya in the spring of 2011. NATO had lost sight of its original mandate and mission, with the focus of the engagement shifting from protecting civilians according to the principles of R2P to removing Colonel Gaddafi at all costs. Ms. May defended R2P in her [speech to Parliament](#) explaining her vote.

Greens will continue to advocate for the advancement of R2P as a key Canadian foreign policy goal.

3. Canada's contributions to global sustainable development

QUESTIONS: Will your party work to ensure that the next government moves progressively to meet the internationally recognized goal of providing 0.7% of gross national income in overseas development assistance (ODA), in a manner that is consistent with Canada's ODA Accountability Act?

A September 2015 United Nations World Summit is set to adopt the new Sustainable Development Goals, a comprehensive framework for global sustainable development. Will your party follow up the World Summit with strong diplomatic and financial commitments to help ensure that the SDGs are in fact implemented?

Nearly half of the world's population lives in absolute poverty (less than \$2 USD per day) and 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 USD. Poverty is the single largest determinant of ill health. Each day, an estimated fifty thousand people die from poverty-related causes, and one child dies every three seconds. Four decades ago, Canada committed to eliminating global poverty, and we set a target of spending 0.7% of our GDP on official development assistance (ODA). We reaffirmed this target in 1992, but we have never come close to meeting our goal. In 2000, Canada and all UN members set eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to achieve by 2015. The first goal is "to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger."

Canada's level of ODA is now one of the lowest of the contributing donor nations. Currently we only contribute 0.3%. The Green Party supports meeting this target of 0.7% for ODA and believes it can be reached in the next decade through strategic poverty reduction planning.

A Green government will work with our global partners to establish clear paths to meet our SDGs. The Green Party was a vocal advocate for placing the MDGs at the centre of Canadian diplomatic and international efforts and we believe that we must do the same with our new targets.

4. Reform the United Nations and global governance

QUESTIONS: Will your party commit to establishing a dedicated unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs focused on developing support internationally for needed UN and global governance reforms?

What reforms to the United Nations system are the priorities most likely to be implemented should your party form government?

The Green Party will strongly consider establishing a unit in DFATD dedicated to developing international support for needed UN and global governance reforms. We believe Canada can and must increase its commitment to the UN and that there must be significant UN reform to make the organization more effective and representative. Security Council vetoes must be re-examined in a post-Cold War context. More balance in north-south representation must be achieved within the Security Council.

This unit in DFATD would be especially relevant today as state sovereignty is increasingly subject to regulations established by powerful multilateral institutions, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank. We support placing the WTO, IMF, and World Bank under the authority of the UN General Assembly, and shift the direction of international trade away from “free trade” to “fair trade” focusing on the global protection of human rights, labour standards, cultural diversity, and ecosystems.