



# HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1.7 TRILLION?

World military expenditure, 1988–2012



Note: The totals are based on the data on 172 states in the SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, <http://www.sipri.org/databases/milex/>. The absence of data for the Soviet Union in 1991 means that no total can be calculated for that year.

www.sipri.org

Global military spending is over \$1.7 trillion. Countries, like Canada, are spending public tax dollars on expanding secret combat forces, increasing illegal surveillance, buying new fighter jets, building warships, and maintaining warfare centres.

However, United Nations' Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "This money could surely have been much better spent on poverty reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, food and nutrition security,

women's and children's health and other global development challenges." It is time to shift priorities and **#movethemoney** to urgent environmental and social needs!

## TAKE ACTION:

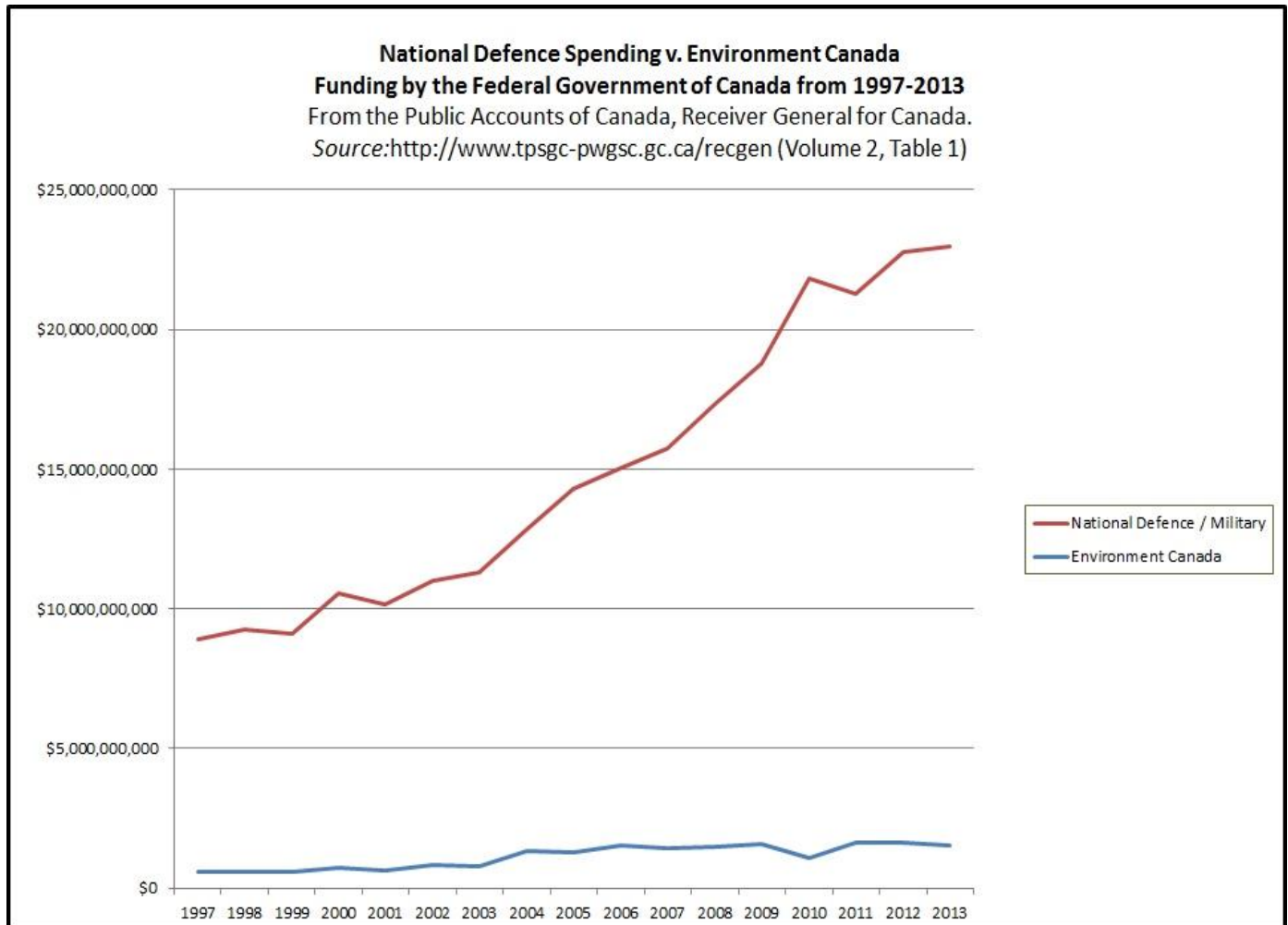
- ✓ Post a selfie "If I had \$1.7 trillion, ..." to Facebook & Twitter and send it to the *Canadian Voice of Women for Peace* at [info@vowpeace.org](mailto:info@vowpeace.org)
- ✓ Email, tweet, or phone Prime Minister Stephen Harper to shift priorities & **#movethemoney**: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca) / [@pmharper](https://twitter.com/pmharper) / Tel: (613) 992-4211
- ✓ Share your support for *Global Day of Action on Military Spending* **#GDAMS** and **#demilitarize** by email & on Facebook & Twitter. Check out [www.gdams.org](http://www.gdams.org)



With \$1.7 trillion, Sandra of the Voice of Women would eliminate hunger & provide free education

# MILITARY SPENDING IN CANADA

In 2013, the Canadian government spent almost \$23 billion on the Department of National Defence. Canada is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> for highest military spending in the world. Yet, the greatest human security challenges are poverty and climate change. In Canada, there are 150,000 people homeless, 15% of children are living in poverty, 7% are unemployed, and there is growing income inequality. The federal government spends twenty times more on the military than on the natural environment –see graph below. In 2013, the *Center for Global Development* ranked Canada last among wealthy nations for environmental protection. We must question whether so much of our tax dollars should be spent on the military and so little spent on protecting people and the planet – our life support system. It's time for a green, peace economy!



## SOURCES:

- Public Accounts of Canada: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/txt/72-eng.html>
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: <http://www.sipri.org/>



Canadian Voice of Women for Peace  
[www.vowpeace.org](http://www.vowpeace.org)



Global Day of Action  
on Military Spending  
[www.demilitarize.org](http://www.demilitarize.org)



International Peace Bureau  
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