

WHY CANADA NEEDS TO DEMILITARIZE:

Facts and Figures on the Defence Budget

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In 2013, the Canadian government under Prime Minister Stephen Harper spent almost \$23 billion on the Department of National Defence (DND), the highest amount in relative dollars since the height of the Cold War and the most in our country's history. Canada is ranked 14th in the world for highest military spending. Under the *Canada First Defence Strategy*, the federal government is planning on spending \$490 billion more on the military over the next twenty years, so that the annual budget for the Department of National Defence will be \$30 billion by 2027. Currently, the government is planning to spend \$25 billion to build new armed combat vessels (warships), \$16 billion for the F-35 stealth fighter jets, and \$2 billion for drones. According to the Public Accounts of Canada, the budget for DND is more than the government spends on any other federal department or program less transfer payments (Figure 1).

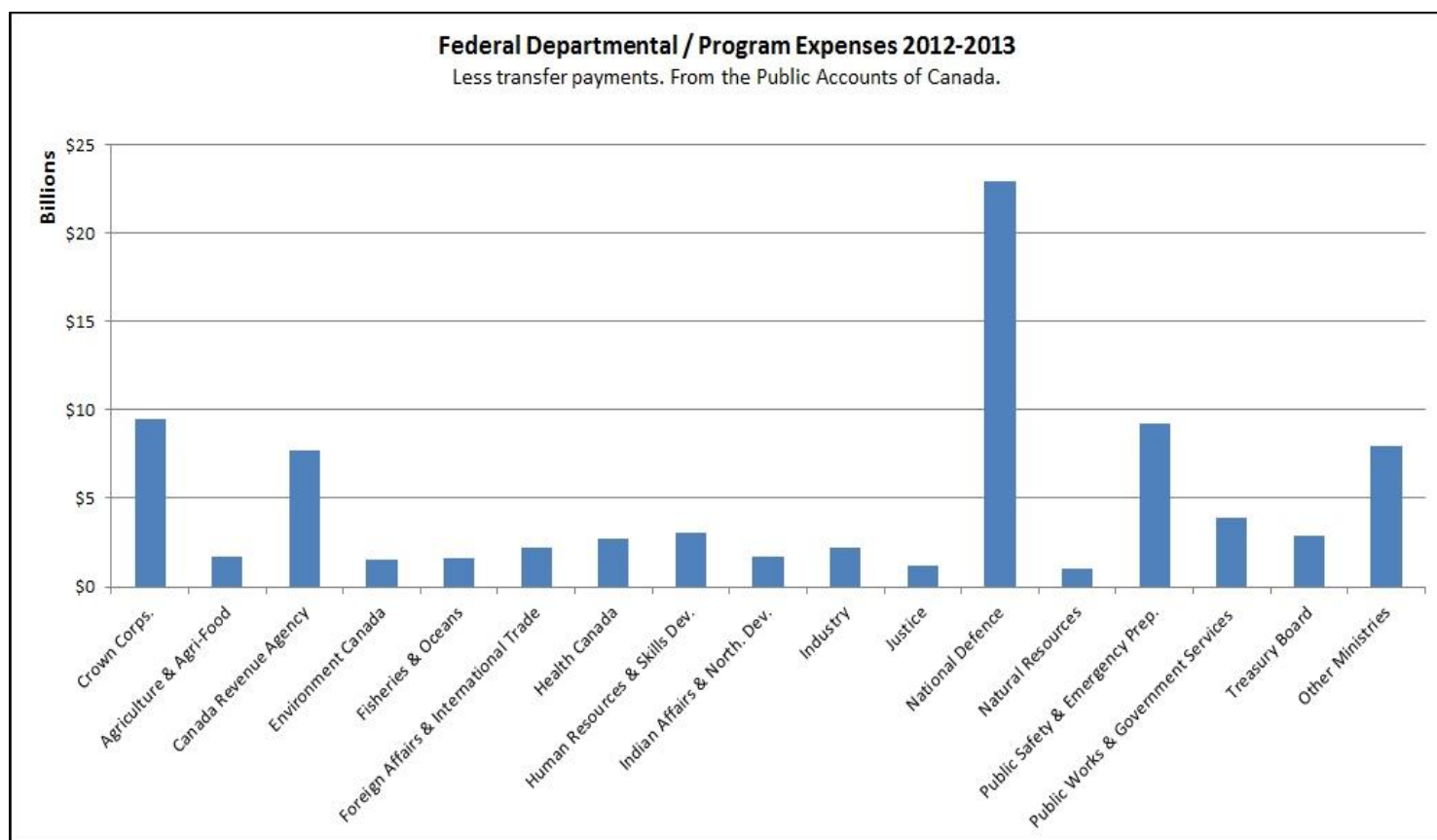


Figure 1: Public Accounts of Canada: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/txt/72-eng.html>

The National Defence budget represents 28% of all departmental and program expenses not including transfer payments to the provinces (Figure 2).

Federal Departmental / Program Expenses 2012-2013
 % of Federal Expenditure. Not including Transfer Payments. From the Public Accounts of Canada

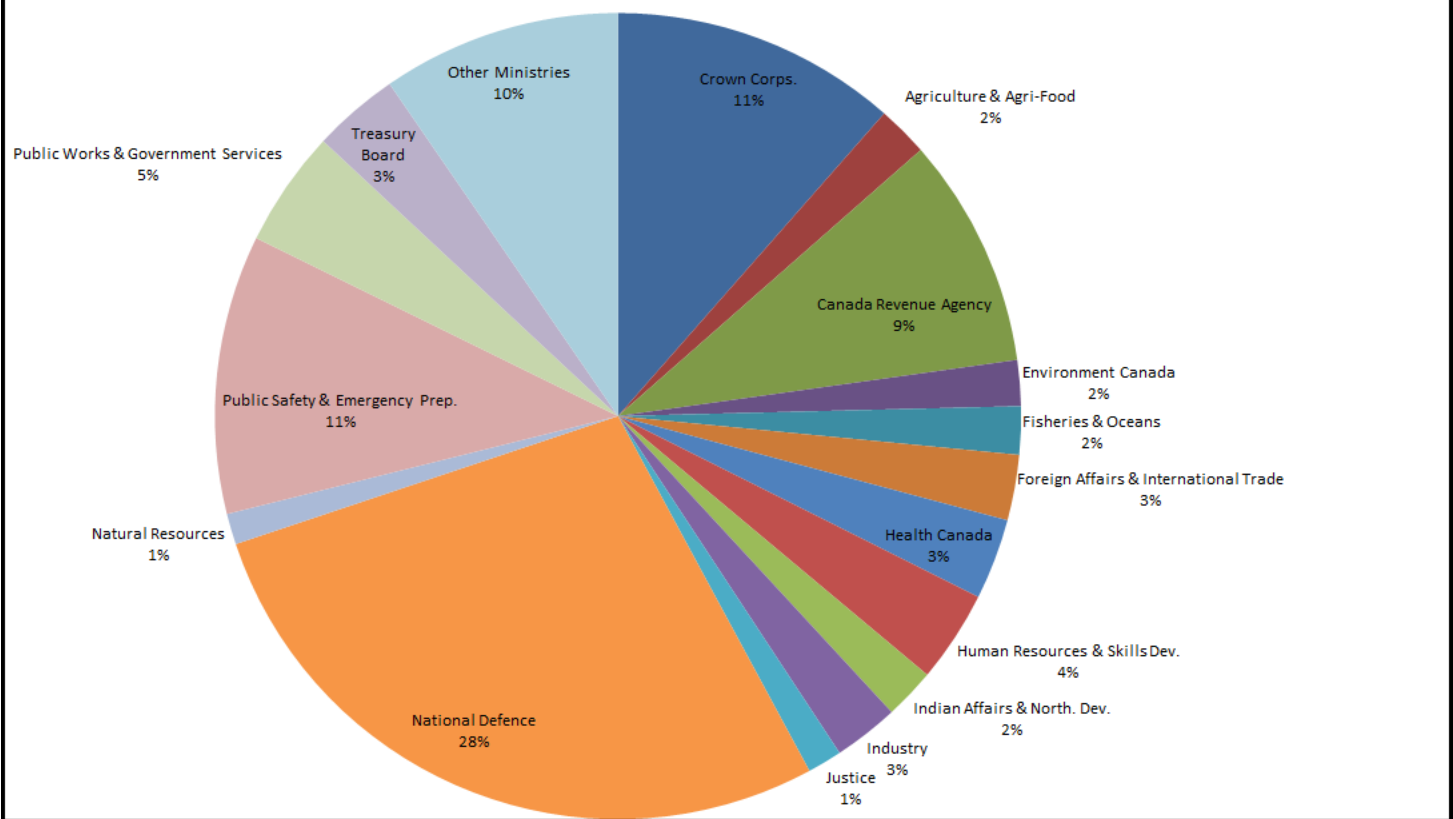


Figure 2

By contrast, Environment Canada gets only 2% of the budget (Figure 2). The federal government only spends \$1.5 billion to protect the natural environment and to take action on climate change. In 2013, the *Center for Global Development* ranked Canada last among wealthy nations in terms of environmental protection. See the results here: <http://www.cgdev.org/initiative/commitment-development-index/index>

The Canadian government has cut or eliminated the funding to many environmental projects since 2006 (see more here *Scientists for the Right to Know*: <https://scientistsfortherighttoknow.wildapricot.org/timeline>):

- Cancelled One Tonne Challenge for Climate Change (2006)
- Closed Canadian Climate Adaptation and Impacts Research Network (2006)
- Eliminated the position of the National Science Advisor (2008)
- Cut the Environmental Monitoring Assessment Network (2007)
- Cancelled the Eco-Energy Retrofit Program (2010)
- Eliminated funding for the Canadian Environmental Network (2011)
- Cancelled the National Roundtable on the Environment & Economy (2013)

It gets worse. By 2016, Environment Canada's budget will be reduced more than half from \$1.5 billion to \$698 million, according to the department's latest *Plans & Priorities*: <https://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=024B8406-1&offset=3&toc=show>

Currently, Environment Canada only allots \$118 million of its \$1.5 billion budget on its climate change program, but by 2016-2017 that program will be further reduced by two-thirds to \$54 million. As the climate crisis gets worse, Canada is cutting the budget. By contrast, the government spends \$328 million for the Department of National Defence's Canadian identity program so that Canadians think positively of the military (See DND's *Plans & Priorities* in the sources below). The federal government now spends 22 times more on the military than on the environment (Figure 3).

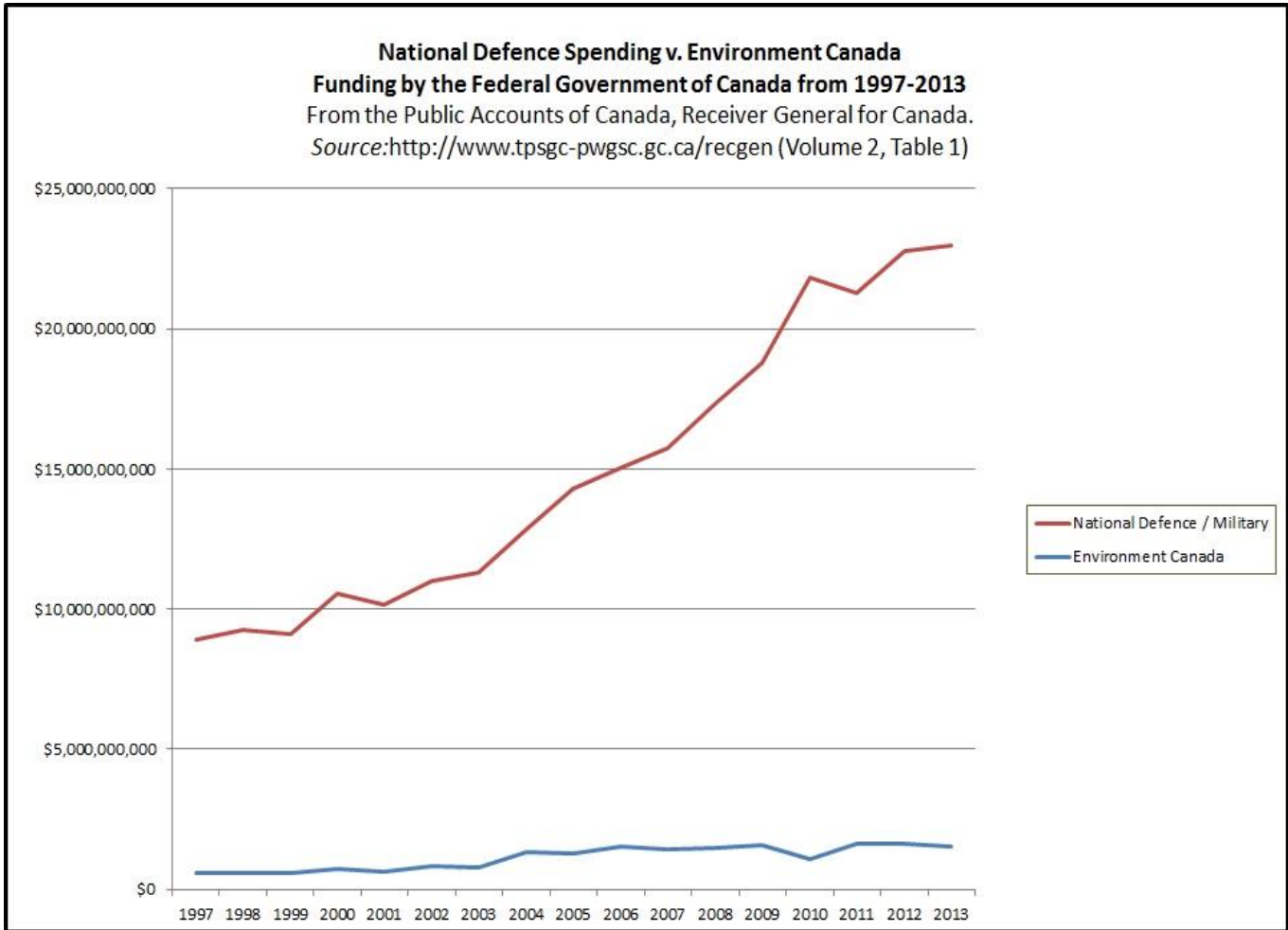


Figure 3

The Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) receives only 2% of the federal departmental budget. Two years ago, the Canadian government spent \$1,737,506,000 on DFO. Last year, the government reduced the budget by two hundred million to \$1,596,572,000 (Figure 4). DFO is the agency responsible for managing fragile fish stocks and fish habitat and protecting Canada's three oceans. The government also cut or eliminated the funding to the following DFO projects since 2006:

- Closed the Ocean Pollution Monitoring program (2012)
- Closed the Experimental Lakes Area program (2012 – tried to save face by transferring the program)
- Closed the Department of Fisheries contaminants program (2012)
- Closing 7 out of 11 Department of Fisheries & Oceans libraries by 2015

Watch the CBC Fifth Estate Documentary **"The Silence of the Labs"**:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/research-cutbacks-by-government-alarm-scientists-1.2490081>

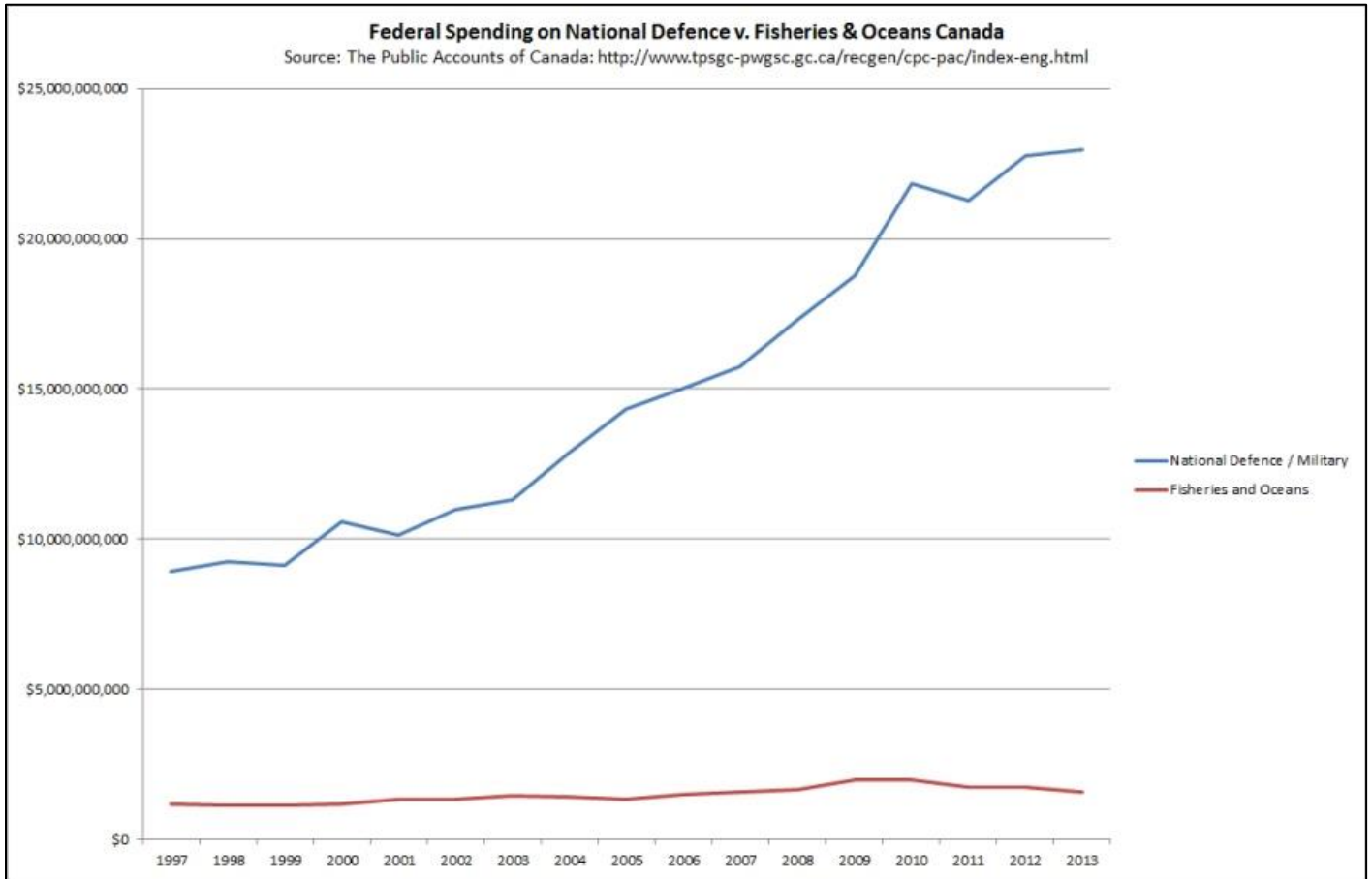


Figure 4

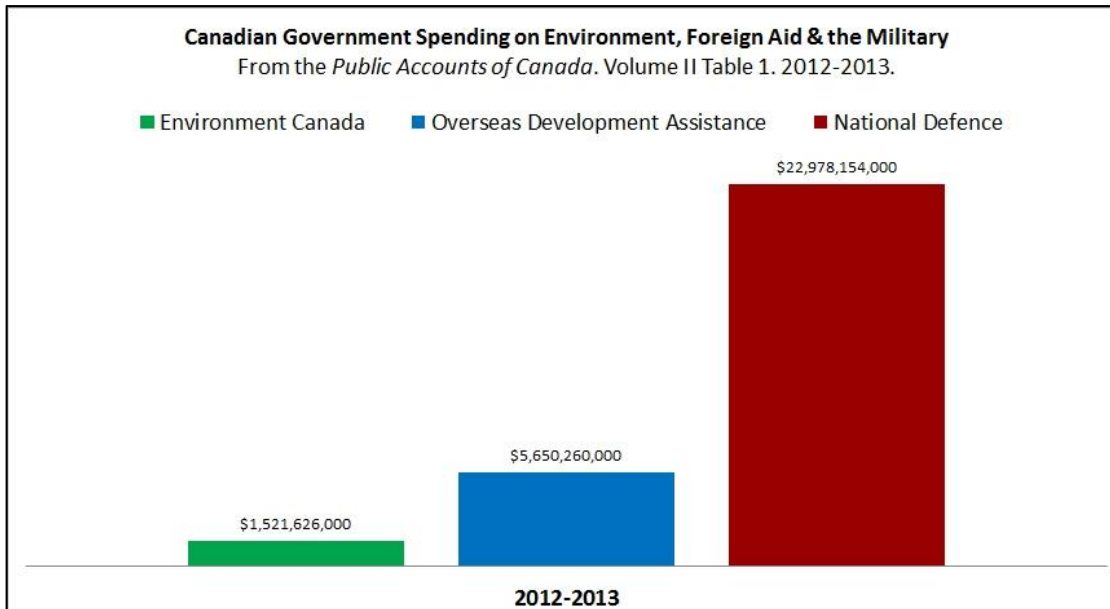


Figure 5

Last year, Canada spent only \$5 billion on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), which is foreign aid to poor countries (Figure 5). This is only 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI). In 1970, Canada made a commitment to spend 1% of GNI on ODA. Canada has never met its target to the most vulnerable people in the world.

OUR GREATEST SECURITY CHALLENGES: CLIMATE CHANGE & POVERTY

The greatest human security challenges we are facing are climate change and poverty. In Canada, 150,000 people are homeless, 15% of children are living in poverty, 7% are unemployed, and there is growing income inequality. Canadians must question whether so much of our tax dollars should be spent on the military and so little spent on protecting the planet and people.

It is time to shift priorities and call for a green, peace economy now.

TAKE ACTION:

- ✓ Email, phone or tweet Prime Minister Stephen Harper to **#movethemoney** to urgent environmental and social needs: pm@pm.gc.ca / [@pmharper](https://twitter.com/pmharper) / Tel: (613) 992-4211
- ✓ Share your support every April for the *Global Day of Action on Military Spending* **#GDAMS** on Facebook & Twitter. Check out www.gdams.org
- ✓ Support a local peace group like the *Canadian Voice of Women for Peace*: www.vowpeace.org
- ✓ Support the work of the national organization *Ceasefire*: www.ceasefire.ca

SOURCES:

- Environment Canada's *Plans & Priorities*: <http://ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=31D9FF32-1>
- Department of National Defence's *Plans & Priorities*: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/about-reports-pubs-report-plan-priorities/2013-other-table-contents.page?>
- Department of National Defence's *Canada First Defence Strategy*:
<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/about/canada-first-defence-strategy.page>
- Critique of Canada's \$25 billion warship strategy: www.demilitarize.ca
- Ideas for creating a green, peace economy in Canada: www.demilitarize.ca
- Public Accounts of Canada: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/txt/72-eng.html>
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: <http://www.sipri.org/>



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*Global Day of Action
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International Peace Bureau
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