

1 **Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**
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3 **Whereas,** nuclear weapons wreak destruction and can cause devastation, and
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5 **Whereas,** nuclear weapons have been condemned by the United Nations, the Canadian
6 Conference of Catholic Bishops, and other world organizations, and
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8 **Whereas,** nuclear weapons give a false sense of security, and the ‘nuclear deterrence theory’
9 has instead led to nuclear proliferation, therefore be it
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11 **Resolved,** Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, in 72nd
12 annual convention assembled, request national council to urge the Government of
13 Canada to support, sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of
14 Nuclear Weapons, and be it further
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16 **Resolved,** this resolution be forwarded to national council of The Catholic Women’s League of
17 Canada for consideration at 99th annual convention assembled in August 2019.
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37 Gifted by Toronto Diocesan Council

1 Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**3 BRIEF**

4 Since 1945 many horrific pictures and writings have informed Canadians of the devastation caused by
5 two atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. As of mid-2017 it was estimated there were
6 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world, each many times more powerful than those dropped on Japan in
7 1945. By far, the largest concentrations reside in the United States and Russia. Smaller arsenals are
8 possessed by the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea (Nuclear
9 arsenals). Even a small number of these bombs could cause an inconceivable number of casualties and
10 have a catastrophic effect on the earth's climate and agricultural production, ultimately leading to
11 widespread famine (In This Section) (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Weapons - Canadian Red Cross).
12 The extraction and after-effects of materials used to build nuclear weapons cause great harm to the
13 environment (Home) (Uranium - Overview). Fissile materials created from uranium ore remain toxic and
14 weapons-usable for many millennia (Production of nuclear weapons). In 1945, nuclear weapons caused
15 dire injury, with long-lasting effects (Hiroshima and Nagasaki: 7 things you should know). Many billions
16 of dollars invested in nuclear weapons have diverted money and resources away from human needs.
17 Hundreds of millions of people across the globe suffer hunger and starvation while the nine countries
18 with nuclear weapons, in 2011 alone, spent an estimated \$105 billion US dollars on these weapons
19 (Spending on nuclear weapons).

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21 On July 7, 2017, the United Nations adopted the first-ever Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
22 (Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons – UNODA). Once fifty nations have signed and ratified
23 this treaty, nuclear weapons, like land mines and cluster bombs, become illegal. Those signing the treaty
24 agree to ban development, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using,
25 or threatening to use nuclear weapons; to assist victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons; and to
26 help with cleanup of environmental contamination (The treaty). The Holy See has consistently called for
27 the abolition of these “evil instruments of war” (Pacem in Terris) (National Catholic Reporter) (Vatican
28 News) (Rome Reports). The Canadian Council of Churches, including the Canadian Conference of
29 Catholic Bishops, have urged the Government of Canada to support the TPNW (Canadian Council of
30 Churches). Upon accepting the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of ICAN in December 2017, Beatrice Fihn
31 recalled the message of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, IPPNW, “We
32 physicians protest the outrage of holding the entire world hostage. We protest the moral obscenity that
33 each of us is being continuously targeted for extinction” (The Nobel Prize) (IPPNW).

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35 Canada has not signed the TPNW, also known as the ‘Ban Treaty’, claiming that U.S. nuclear weapons
36 are essential to our security. In fact, nuclear weapons give a false sense of security, and the ‘nuclear
37 deterrence theory’ has instead led to nuclear proliferation (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation). Nuclear
38 weapons cannot be contained (Ibid). The Secretary General of the United Nations stated, “A nuclear war
39 cannot be won and must never be fought” (UNODA).

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41 Canada should join the nations who support the Ban Treaty (Globe and Mail) (International Committee of
42 the Red Cross). “The story of nuclear weapons will have an ending, and it is up to us what that ending
43 will be. Will it be the end of nuclear weapons or will it be the end of us?” (Fihn, B. Dec. 10, 2017) (The
44 Nobel Prize).

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ON.19.04 Canadian Support for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**Action Plan**

1. Hold a speaker presentation to inform parishioners of the necessity of banning nuclear weapons and of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
2. Provide a list of websites and printed materials to CWL members and parishioners through which they may increase their knowledge of the hazards of nuclear warfare.
3. Initiate a petition that CWL members and parishioners may sign indicating their support of Canada's signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
4. Write letters to the Prime Minister and local members of Parliament indicating your support of TPNW.
5. Create and post in a prominent place a facsimile of a "Doomsday Clock."
6. Monitor the Federal Government's response to this resolution.