

# Promoting global peace and justice

NDP **BACKGROUNDER**

**Generations of Canadians have worked toward building** a world that is more just, compassionate and peaceful. But we are being let down by successive Prime Ministers who turn their backs on Canada's commitments to international peace and justice.

Today, half the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day. Hundreds of millions see their lives and communities devastated by clearly preventable diseases. Untold millions fall victim to repression, human rights abuses and armed conflict—including misguided western-led missions in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Canada has the talent, resources and experience to confront these challenges and make a positive difference. But Stephen Harper has taken Canada even further away from our multilateral, peace-oriented traditions in favour of the aggressive unilateralism of George W. Bush. That's an approach that most Canadians reject.

It's time for a Prime Minister who puts humanitarian concerns ahead of pleasing Washington. A Prime Minister who shares your vision of being a strong and compassionate leader on the world stage.

Jack Layton will be that Prime Minister.

**Don't let them tell you it can't be done.**

**Jack  
Layton**  
NDP



## Stephen Harper can't be trusted.

- He extended Canada's unbalanced 2,500-troop combat mission in Afghanistan until at least 2011—spending \$8 on counter-insurgency for every dollar invested in reconstruction and development.
- He continued to erode Canada's peacekeeping commitment: by August 2006, just 56 Canadian soldiers were assigned to peacekeeping missions worldwide, down from 1,149 fifteen years earlier.
- He sacrificed Canada's role as a multilateral leader—letting Canada slip to 59th out of 114 countries in terms of contributions of military and police personnel to United Nations operations.
- Despite promising more foreign aid, he is allocating only 0.3% of national income—well below the internationally endorsed goal of 0.7% and barely better than the previous Liberal governments' abysmal figures.

## Stephane Dion is not the change we need.

- In Parliament, after criticizing the direction of the mission in Afghanistan, Dion had most of this Liberal MPs vote for Stephen Harper's motion to extend combat through at least 2011.
- With Dion at the cabinet table, Liberal governments sped the shift toward US-led combat missions: spending on UN-led peacebuilding missions, as a share of overseas operations, fell from 93% to 3%.

## Jack Layton's New Democrats: Promoting peace and justice.

In this election, Jack Layton and his team of New Democrats have a plan to make Canada a world leader in peacekeeping and international justice. Already, Layton's team has led the way in Parliament.

- Alone in Parliament, consistently called for the immediate withdrawal of troops from combat in **Afghanistan**, while ensuring that Canada delivers on its development commitments there.
- Consistently opposed Canadian plans to support George Bush's plans for continental **Ballistic Missile Defence**—which risks sparking a new arms race and the weaponization of space.
- Passed a motion calling on Ottawa to cease any removal action against US **Iraq war resisters** who have sought refuge in Canada.
- Tabled legislation to make **international aid** more effective by making poverty-reduction and human rights promotion its main goals and improving accountability for results.
- Pressured Harper to back multilateral efforts to end the genocide in **Darfur**; and passed a motion calling for a probe into Canadian investment there.
- Tabled legislation to ensure that Canadian mining companies operating abroad abide by international principles of **corporate social responsibility**.
- Earlier, when Jack Layton **rewrote the 2005 Liberal budget**, he stopped \$4.6-billion in corporate tax giveaways and invested in better priorities—including an urgently-needed \$500-million boost for international aid.