

Protecting Canadian sovereignty

NDP **BACKGROUNDER**

Canadians are proud of the independent choices we make to build a better country. But Stephen Harper is the latest in a string of Prime Ministers who've put our very sovereignty at risk to please their friends at the boardroom table.

More than 12,000 Canadian firms have fallen into foreign hands over the last quarter century—even icons like Alcan, Inco, Molson, Falconbridge and The Bay. Yet Harper refused to fix toothless takeover rules that leave countless more quality jobs at risk and weaken Canada's ability to chart its own path in key sectors.

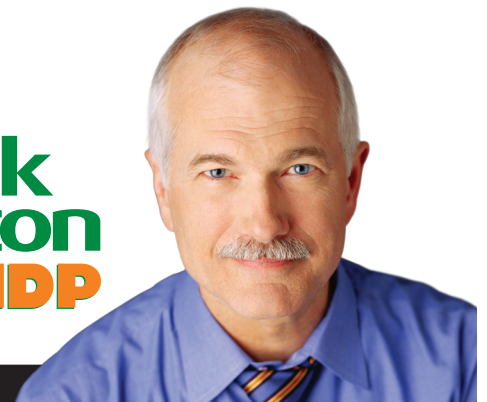
Harper has rejected all calls to renegotiate NAFTA—a trade deal that still lets multinational corporations sue Canada for governing in the public interest. He forged ahead with the secretive Security and Prosperity Partnership to “harmonize” US, Canadian and Mexican policies in 300 areas. And he cut funding to arts and culture programs that are key to preserving our national identity.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

It's time for a Prime Minister who will stand up to Washington and Bay Street. A Prime Minister who will protect Canada's sovereign right to an independent future.

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

**Jack
Layton**
NDP



Stephen Harper can't be trusted.

- He forged ahead with the Security and Prosperity Partnership to “harmonize” Canadian policies with US and Mexican standards in 300 areas ranging from energy security to food safety to immigration.
- He has refused to renegotiate NAFTA to protect Canadian sovereignty, and his government leaked information regarding US Senator Obama’s position on the issue, in an apparent attempt to influence the US presidential campaign.
- He did nothing to fix flawed rules that have blocked just one foreign takeover since 1985—while more than 12,000 were rubber-stamped, wiping out jobs and eroding national control over key sectors.
- His government cut millions in funding for arts and culture programs that are critical for expression and sustaining a uniquely Canadian identity in North America.
- He tabled copyright legislation that puts undue power in the hands of big US corporations, not artists.
- He threw money at military gadgets for the Arctic instead of investing to strengthen northern communities and expand Coast Guard capacity to assert an authentic sovereign presence.

Stéphane Dion is not the change we need.

- With Dion in Cabinet, the Liberals launched the Security and Prosperity Partnership; did not reject even one foreign takeover; slashed millions from cultural institutions such as the CBC, Telefilm Canada, and the Canadian Television Fund; and never did keep their promise to renegotiate NAFTA to protect our sovereignty.

Jack Layton's New Democrats: Protecting our sovereignty.

This election, Jack Layton and his team of New Democrats will present a plan to protect Canada’s ability to forge its own path in North America and the world. Already, Layton’s team has been leading the way in Parliament:

- Secured the first-ever parliamentary hearings on the **Security and Prosperity Partnership**—ensuring an official record of testimony on the deal’s threats to sovereignty in key areas such as agriculture, the environment, health care, energy and income security.
- Co-launched a tri-national **Task Force on Renegotiating NAFTA** alongside US Democrats and Mexican legislators to promote changes to the trade deal to protect national sovereignty, labour rights, the environment and the public interest.
- Successfully pressed Harper’s government to **stop the corporate buyout of MDS Nordion** that would have relinquished leading-edge, publically-funded Canadian Radarsat technology to US arms manufacturer ATK—the first such foreign takeover stopped in 25 years.
- Exposed and opposed Harper’s cuts to critical **arts and culture** programs, and stood up for artists and consumers by opposing Harper’s attempt to import US copyright legislation that gives more power to big media conglomerates.
- Pushed for Canadian **energy self-sufficiency** by promoting proposals for an east-west power grid that will reduce or end reliance on American power from coast to coast to coast.
- Published a plan to assert our **Arctic sovereignty** by investing in northern communities, building deep water ports, retrofitting airports, improving search/rescue and Coast Guard capacity, and tackling the global warming that’s already ravaging the north.