



Autumn 2025

Number 5

Action:

DEFSEC Atlantic & Peace Tea

On 2 October 2025 members of Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace protested the second largest weapons trade fair in Canada¹ and followed this action with conversations over tea to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti (national holiday in India to honour the birth of Mahatma Gandhi).

We need both - tea and protest!



The endless violence and killing in Gaza brought over 30 protesters out to challenge participants at the Canadian Defence Security & Aerospace Exhibition held at the Convention Centre in downtown Halifax. There were 168 exhibit organizations from 16 countries. This weapons trade show includes BAE Systems (Canada), Gastops, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems (Canada), Lockheed Martin,

among others. Continuous profit by these companies of which there is no public information directly aids and abets genocide and civilian suffering.

Lockheed Martin manufactures AGM-114 Hellfire missiles for Israel's Apache helicopters, one of the main weapons used in aerial attacks on Gaza. And this company has a long history tied to destruction including the B20 bomber Enola Gay that dropped the first atomic bomb. This company produces and maintains nuclear warheads. Choosing a livelihood to "do no harm" is not possible once you connect the dots from making to using weapons of war....And to be clear, Gandhi considered war - a violation of truth and nonviolence.

The destruction and war crimes in Gaza are made possible through the endless flow of weapons and military goods from many countries including Canada. Francesca Albanese, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories wrote a scathing report on this global weapons flow.²

As reported by the CBC on 29 July 2025,³ Canada is complicit - we are breaking international law with our military wheeling and dealing policies. "Rachel Small,

¹ <https://defsecatlantic.ca/>

² <https://www.un.org/unispa/document/a-hrc-59-23-from-economy-of-occupation-to-economy-of-genocide-report-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese-palestine-2025/>

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/arms-ammunition-shipments-israel-canada-1.7596091>

Canada lead for World Beyond War, said a report detailing Israeli import data and shipping records shows 'the extent to which Canadian military products are deeply embedded in Israel's military infrastructure.' The Canadian government says it has restricted shipments of items that could be used in Gaza."



We just completed our Peace Walk from Pugwash to Truro - walking in the spirit of nonviolence and disarmament to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Did you know that on 8 August 1945 the London Agreement and Charter established the legal framework for the International Military Tribunal (IMT) or Nuremberg Trials that later formalized the Nuremberg Principles. The United States signed that Charter but then bombed Nagasaki the next day. We handed out pink slips with the Nuremberg Principles to participants of the weapons trade fair.

Woefully the landscape of Gaza echoes Hiroshima - we must all do what we can to expand spaces for peace. It begins with tea.

kathrin winkler

A young Italian art student took up our Invitation to join us after the protest at the weapons trade fair, a peace protest begun by the [Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace](#). We went around our table asking

questions shared by Dr. Reva Joshee suggested in the tea initiative. Here's some answers. Oh and know that the rippling out of peace and goodwill was felt by the cafe staff - they brought us a lovely peace of cake to share in honour of our Peace Tea!

What does a just and peaceful world look like? What steps can we take to move towards this vision?

- It looks like community and care. We don't need a disaster to care for one another in peace (Mia)
- It looks like a village - with lots of working by hand - more pedestrian landscapes rather than mechanization (PS)
- This question is too huge and has felt impossible to me. I have a hard time believing what I can do or whether I have the skills for this. The Peace Walk clarified how I can shift the narrative and what I can offer (AV)
- We need a new way of thinking to be able to imagine a world beyond war (kw)
- When I attended the political protest for Gaza and I saw the children that were involved, I was so moved. They were being raised in love and compassion, and they were participating in acts of resistance and involvement (LS)
- We have to imagine our way past individualism to community. I experienced this strength on Hunter's Mountain, Cape Breton with the land protectors. Consider "returning" or "land back." What we do now on Crown Land may be legal, but it is not moral (ps)

And when the teacups were empty, we gathered up our signs and pamphlets and moved on - with the day in appreciation of one another and this time together.

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