

Canadian Defence Review Submission – 2016

Why is investing in Defence important to Canada and Canadians?

- Investments in defence are investments in our economy. As reported by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI), a recent study by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and Statistics Canada found that, in 2014, the Canadian defence industry accounted for:
 - 63,000 jobs;
 - Approx. \$10 billion in annual sales, 60% of which came from exports, which is 20% higher than the Canadian manufacturing average;
 - Employee compensation nearly 60% above the Canadian manufacturing average; and
 - Nearly a third of employees working as engineers, scientists, researchers, technicians and technologists.

Investments in defence create high-value, sustainable jobs in almost every region of the country. Defence is an integral part of Canada's advanced technology sector and creates jobs that are sustainable, globally competitive and it contributes to important research and development advances. Defence is a high value and enduring stimulus for economic growth, which benefit's all Canadians.

- The ability to contribute meaningfully to allied efforts is necessary to strengthen our international relationships for furthering our trade objectives, applying foreign policy and being recognized appropriately within multi-national organizations. Investing in defence and contributing to our coalition partnerships provides Canada with an important, and perhaps crucial, means to achieving many of our foreign policy goals.
- While peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and sovereignty enforcement roles can all form part of the CAF's mandate, without the necessary investments in defence, a lack of credible readiness may undermine those objectives. Readiness does not have to equate to combat, but it does mean that Canada should have the credibility, and ability, to meet our domestic and international commitments. The evolution of the broader environment and the importance of our role and contribution within it, will not be static or predictable but preparedness is an essential means to ensuring security and stability. A defence policy that restricts the roles and missions of the CAF may have the unintended consequences of restricting Canada's economic opportunities, limiting our foreign policy influence and compromising our relationship with our allies and could put our Nation's security at risk.

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