

## Submission in advance of the DEFENCE REVIEW Roundtable in Vancouver 28 Apr

Prior to detailed discussions at the Defence Roundtable on the “Key Consultation Questions”, I believe participants should consider each question against the essence of the government’s responsibility for National Security and Defence.

Quite simply, the paramount responsibility of the Canadian government is to protect Canada and her citizens and to promote world peace, freedom, and stability in concert with Canadian allies. All other responsibilities are secondary.

With respect to protection, the government must monitor, control, and defend Canadian sovereignty through the provision of adequate national capabilities to respond, when necessary to external threats, national disasters and crises within the country. The government augments national security capability through international security agreements with allied nations.

With respect to world peace and freedom, the government’s responsibility is to promote nationally and internationally Canadian individual rights, freedoms, and ethos with the goal of showing Canada as a nation of human rights and freedoms to the world.

With respect to national and international stability, Canada’s high standard of living and economy is a result of geography, abundance of natural resources, and strong global free trade agreements such as NAFTA (and soon likely to include the Canada/European Trade and Transpacific Trade Agreements) as well as highly sought after membership in the G7/G8 Group of Nations. The government must promote, sustain, and protect our standard of living from outside detrimental influences. Canadian prosperity is a responsibility second only to Security. Benefits accrue to Canadians as a result of the above and improve immeasurably our way of life. We must remember that those same benefits beget responsibilities in the world today. We are one of the few nations that have the “will” and the “wealth” to contribute to world stability, correcting injustices and resolving conflicts.

Given the above, what is the obligation of National Defence for National Security both nationally and internationally?

Nationally.

1. National Defence must work as an integral and important aspect of Whole of Government operations.
2. The government must provide a credible defence capability to monitor, control, deter, and respond to any infringement on our sovereignty in the Arctic, off and under our coasts, in our airspace and in defined Canadian economic zones.
3. This defence capability when directed must be able to act independently or unilaterally.
4. It must also be able to respond to national disasters and, when directed, assist national, provincial, and civic authorities in responding to natural disasters or crisis.

5. National Defence needs as a priority an expeditionary capability of land, sea, and air forces to deal with both national incidents and international conflicts and disasters

North America.

1. National Defence must be an active and equal participant in NORAD and other CAN/US military agreements with credible combat capable forces.
2. Defence must augment NORAD by a greater fusion of intelligence, maritime and aerospace situational awareness for all approaches to continental North America.
3. National Defence must as a priority be fully interoperable with US forces.

Global.

1. National Defence must remain an active and full participant in NATO with fiscal funding levels that permit a timely response to NATO initiatives with well equipped and well trained personnel with strong capability throughout the spectrum of military operations.
2. When directed, National Defence must contribute and work under UN mandates to respond to regional conflicts with the ability to enforce peace and then preserve it. Defence must also be able to provide disaster assistance globally with mobile, well equipped forces able to provide humanitarian assistance and stability.
3. National Defence when involved with "Coalition of the Willing" efforts in responding to world crises do so as a full participant in combat and non-combat operations consistent with our military capabilities and government direction.
4. National Defence must have the ability to protect and extract Canadian diplomats, and citizens from conflict or disaster areas.

The preceding points represent the key points I believe should be kept in mind when embarking on a Defence Review and ensures that the discussion on the Key Consultation Questions can be considered against the paramount Security responsibility of the government to Canadians. Clearly government defence priorities and adequate funding are fundamental to stating and implementing a Canadian Defence Policy -a policy without adequate funding is a disaster to the military, the government and ultimately Canadians. Hard decisions on defence priorities and funding levels must be made in Canada as in other nations, but I would argue that an informed Canadian public would understand and accept.

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