A. Canada should encourage peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine, but should not structure policies based on an assumption that a breakthrough is imminent.

B. Canada should support steps to level the playing field between Palestinians and Israelis, to ensure that both groups’ legitimate interests are considered, and to encourage negotiations.

1. Canada must stop equating Palestinians’ legal steps at the UN with Israel’s illegal steps, specifically Israel’s illegal settlement activity.

   i. *Palestinian steps to seek enhanced status at the UN or to access mechanisms to enforce international law are justified and reasonable. Canadian officials should not describe such steps as “unilateral,” nor threaten retaliation.* Palestinians’ steps at the UN are entirely legal and are evidence of Palestinian leaders’ willingness to submit to the judgment of a multilateral body—the UN General Assembly. In contrast, Israel’s establishment of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territories violates international law, specifically the following: Article 49, paragraph 6 of the Fourth Geneva Convention; the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC); UN Security Council Resolution 465 (1980) and the legal opinion of the International Court of Justice. Israel has illegally moved about 600,000 Israelis into the oPt and continues announcing plans for further settlement expansions.

   ii. *Canada should welcome and support Palestinians’ efforts to call for the enforcement of international law (UN resolutions, court cases, social actions including boycott, etc.)* The resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is contingent on ending Israel’s violations of international law which destroy the possibility of a viable, independent Palestinian state. Palestinians have already offered all the territorial concessions possible short of giving up on the possibility of an independent Palestinian state. The most effective mechanisms available to the Palestinians to stop further dispossession are social protest, actions at the UN, and international court cases.

2. Canada must condemn all human rights violations committed by either Israel or the Palestinians.

   i. *Canada must be as vocal in its criticism of Israel’s use of disproportionate lethal force against Palestinian civilians as Canada is in its criticism of rocket attacks or suicide bombings on Israeli civilians.* According to figures compiled by Israeli human rights group B’tselem, over four times as many Palestinian civilians (3122) as Israeli civilians (733) have been killed in the last 13 years. Canada’s government and MPs must acknowledge this, and consistently denounce all unjustified violations of the most basic human right—the right to life—irrespective of the perpetrators’ and victims’ ethnicities.

   ii. *Canada must be equally unequivocal in opposing other violations of human rights:*

      a. *Example: Forced Evictions: Canada must denounce evictions of Palestinians in both the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) and within Israel itself.* Israel plans to evict 1000 Palestinians from their homes in the South Hebron Hills (oPt), arguing that the area is required for an Israeli military firing training zone. However, international law prohibits the use of occupied lands for routine military training. As well, Israeli leaders plan to forcibly relocate thousands of Bedouin citizens of Israel from their homes in the Negev and to destroy dozens of Bedouin villages, under the controversial Prawer Plan. Those forced out would be relocated to already overcrowded Bedouin townships with scant possibilities of earning a living. The Bedouin stridently oppose the Plan.

      b. *Example: Illegal Israeli Settlements: Canada must denounce more energetically Israel’s “settlement enterprise.”* Settlement building, aside from being illegal (see B.1.i.above) makes peace negotiations irrelevant. Settlement building in East Jerusalem is particularly provocative, since Palestinians and the international community expect East Jerusalem to
become the capital of a future Palestinian state. Therefore, Canada’s government and MPs must promptly and vocally denounce settlement expansions and all actions enabling them, such as building of the Wall deep into Palestinian territory, including in East Jerusalem, destruction of Palestinian olive groves, etc. Canada must implement effective mechanisms to track and penalize Canadian involvement the following: building of settlements and the Wall; business activities sustaining the settlements; NGO actions encouraging settlement activities.

c. Other Examples: Canada must denounce Israeli abuses committed against Palestinians protesting the occupation:
   • Excessive Israeli use of force against protestors: Many unarmed protesters have been killed (e.g. Bassem Abu Rahmeh) or injured by Israeli soldiers using excessive force to disperse demonstrations.
   • Arbitrary detention without charge or trial: As noted by international human rights groups, community leaders of non-violent protests against the occupation are repeatedly detained without charge or trial, some spending years more or less continually jailed.
   • Harsh sentencing of Palestinian protesters for minor offences: Protesters, including children, have been jailed for up to six months for throwing stones at Israeli tanks and heavily armed soldiers or for illegally entering Israel to seek work.
   • Jailing of minors: Over the years thousands of Palestinian children have been jailed in circumstances criticized by both Israeli and international human rights groups. As of August 31, 2013, a total of 180 minors are in Israeli jails.

C. Canada must provide humanitarian relief to Palestinians suffering as a result of the conflict

1. Canada should discontinue its practice of “security aid” and replace it with programmes creating employment and enabling Palestinians to meet their own most basic needs. Palestinians need food, housing, electricity, potable water, sewage systems, education and health care more than greater policing.

2. Alleviate the suffering of Palestinian refugees
   i. Restore funding to UNRWA’s core programmes, withdrawn from 2009 on.
   ii. Allocate additional funding to enable UNRWA to address the needs of Palestinian refugees affected by Syria’s civil war. According to UNRWA, Palestinian refugees in Syria “have been severely affected by the ongoing armed conflict, with virtually all of their residential areas experiencing armed engagements or the use of heavy weapons. Of the total 529,000 Palestine refugees in Syria, already over 511,000 [90 percent] require assistance.”

D. Parliamentarians must seek a deeper understanding of the existing dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and share that knowledge with Canadians

1. Parliamentarians must establish direct contact with independent Israeli and Palestinian human rights organisations, and neutral international humanitarian and human rights bodies by inviting the following groups to testify before the Foreign Affairs Committee:
   • Independent Israeli human rights groups such as B’tselem, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), Physicians for Human Rights, Adalah Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Yesh Din, Breaking the Silence;
   • Palestinian human rights groups such as Al Haq; Palestinian community organizations.
   • International humanitarian and human rights organizations familiar with the situation, such as UNRWA, UNHCHR, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA oPt), UNICEF, the ICRC, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Oxfam and Save the Children.

2. Parliamentarians travelling to Israel-Palestine must ensure that they have contact with Israelis and Palestinians from all sides of the political spectrum as well as the humanitarian and human rights organizations working in the region.