



## Liberal Party of Canada

350 Albert, Suite 920  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

## Parti Libéral du Canada

350 rue Albert, Suite 920  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

August 27 2015

Erin Hunt  
Program Coordinator  
Mines Action Canada

27 août 2015

Erin Hunt  
Coordonnatrice du programme  
Mines Action Canada

Dear Ms. Hunt,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our policies online at [RealChange.ca](http://RealChange.ca). This site provides details on a Liberal government's policies, goals, and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Anna Gainey, President  
Liberal Party of Canada

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Chère M<sup>me</sup> Hunt,

Veillez trouver ci-joint la réponse formelle du Parti libéral du Canada à votre questionnaire.

Pour en apprendre davantage au sujet de la vision que le Parti libéral a pour le Canada, prenez un moment pour consulter nos politiques en ligne à [ChangeRassemble.ca](http://ChangeRassemble.ca). Ce site présente des détails sur les politiques, les objectifs et les priorités d'ungouvernement libéral.

Au nom de notre chef, Justin Trudeau, et de son équipe toute entière, je tiens à vous remercier de nous avoir fait part des inquiétudes de vos membres.

Nous sommes reconnaissants de l'intérêt que vous portez aux politiques du Parti libéral du Canada, parce qu'elles concernent les questions qui vous touchent.

Bien cordialement,

Anna Gainey, Présidente  
Parti libéral du Canada

  
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### Mines Action Canada

#### Conventional Weapons

1. *Canada is a State Party to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, which comprehensively prohibits cluster munitions and provides the framework for clearance of cluster munition remnants and assistance to victims. If your party forms the government after the 2015 election, what steps will Canada take to promote the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions?*

The Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important Convention with an ability to radically reduce the number of cluster bomb deaths and injuries around the world. Canada has long been a leader on humanitarian disarmament, most notably with the Liberal government's leadership to ban the use of Landmines. Canada has a duty to ensure that we hold ourselves to the highest possible humanitarian standard in our international obligations. A Liberal government will restore Canada's leadership role on the international stage on matters of human rights.

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La Convention sur les armes à sous-munitions est un accord important pouvant mener à une diminution radicale du nombre de blessures et de décès attribués à cet armement dans le monde. Depuis longtemps, le Canada exerce un leadership dans le domaine du désarmement humanitaire, et plus particulièrement celui déployé par les libéraux pour interdire les mines. Nous devons veiller à respecter les normes humanitaires les plus élevées qui soient dans le cadre de nos obligations internationales. Un gouvernement libéral restaurera la notoriété internationale de chef de file du Canada en matière de droits de la personne.

2. *If your party forms the next government, how will Canada stigmatize the use of cluster munitions by any state - even our allies?*

Canada has a duty to ensure that we hold ourselves to the highest possible humanitarian standard in our international obligations. Unfortunately, the ratification legislation for the treaty passed by the Conservative government did not adequately promote the stigmatization of the use of cluster bombs. Liberals believe that the legislation should have been more in line with both the spirit and letter of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

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Nous devons veiller à respecter les normes humanitaires les plus élevées qui soient dans le cadre de nos obligations internationales. Malheureusement, la législation adoptée par les conservateurs pour la ratification du traité n'a pas adéquatement encouragé la stigmatisation de l'utilisation des bombes à fragmentation. Les libéraux croient que la législation aurait dû respecter autant l'esprit que la lettre de la Convention sur les armes à sous-munitions.

3. *The International Campaign to Ban Landmines has issued a completion challenge for all states to join the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines and for all mine clearance to be completed by 2025. Canada as a State Party to the Ottawa Treaty, committed to work towards the goal of completion by 2025 via the Maputo Declaration 2014. If your party forms the government after the 2015 election, what concrete steps will the government take to ensure the work of the 1997 Ottawa Treaty is completed?*

The Liberal Party of Canada is proud of its commitment to this Canadian-sponsored treaty which has been so effective at reducing the number of landmine victims worldwide and in setting a precedent for a new way of creating international agreements that are designed to protect innocent people.

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The Treaty remains a source of pride for all Canadians. It sets the foundation for a global norm that discourages the use of pernicious weapons that so unfairly target the innocent and is a victory for the promotion of human security and the protection of civilians. It became the centerpiece for the Chretien government's human security approach to foreign policy and led to further innovations like the International Criminal Court and the advancement of the Responsibility to Protect principle.

However, the Liberal Party of Canada understands that there is still work that needs to be done. We know that landmines still plague Bosnia, Belgium, Afghanistan, and more. Unfortunately, little attention was paid by the current government to ways in which the work of the treaty can be further advanced. No effort has been made to build upon Canada's past successes. A Liberal government will re-engage on this important treaty and lobby non-signatory states to join the treaty.

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Le Parti libéral du Canada est fier de son engagement envers ce traité parrainé par le Canada, un traité qui a prouvé sa grande efficacité à réduire le nombre mondial de victimes des mines terrestres et à créer un précédent dans la façon de définir les accords internationaux conçus pour protéger les personnes innocentes.

Le traité demeure une source de fierté pour toutes les Canadiennes et tous les Canadiens. Il pose les jalons d'une norme mondiale dont l'objectif est de décourager le recours à des armes pernicieuses ciblant si injustement des innocents. Il est une victoire pour la promotion de la sécurité humaine et la protection des populations civiles. Ce traité est devenu la pierre angulaire de l'approche adoptée par le gouvernement Chrétien en matière de politique étrangère, une approche axée sur la sécurité humaine. Il a été suivi par d'autres innovations, comme l'établissement de la Cour pénale internationale et la promotion du principe de la responsabilité de protéger.

Malgré tout, le Parti libéral du Canada comprend que beaucoup reste à faire. Nous savons que les mines terrestres sont encore un fléau dans des pays comme la Bosnie, la Belgique ou l'Afghanistan. Malheureusement, le gouvernement actuel n'a pas souhaité lancer des initiatives dans le prolongement du traité. Aucun effort n'a été consenti pour bâtir sur les succès passés du Canada. Un gouvernement libéral relancera les discussions sur cet important traité et exercera des pressions sur les états non signataires pour qu'ils y adhèrent.

4. *For many years, Canada was a leading (top five) donor to mine action and victim assistance programs. Recently, Canada has fallen out of the top ten supporters of mine action. If your party forms the next government, what steps will you take to return Canada to its traditional position of leadership on mine action funding?*

Canada has a duty to ensure that we hold ourselves to the highest possible humanitarian standard in our international obligations. A Liberal government will restore Canada's leadership role on the international stage on matters of human rights.

\*

Nous devons veiller à respecter les normes humanitaires les plus élevées qui soient dans le cadre de nos obligations internationales. Un gouvernement libéral restaurera la notoriété internationale de chef de file du Canada en matière de droits de la personne.

5. *Canada helped negotiate, but has not subsequently joined, the 2013 Arms Trade Treaty - the world's first Treaty to regulate the global arms trade. 130 countries have now joined the ATT, including major weapons exporters such as the US and UK, and all of NATO. If your party forms the next government, would ensuring Canada joins the ATT be part of your efforts to help stop weapons getting into the hands of human rights abusers and warlords?*

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The Liberal Party of Canada supports this landmark treaty, which establishes international guidelines on the export control of conventional weapons in order to prevent the sale of these weapons to conflict zones and outlaw states.

During the course of these negotiations, Canada abandoned a leadership role and instead hampered discussions by pushing to exempt sporting guns from the treaty. This was a significantly negative shift in Canada's long-standing position as a leader in multilateral arms control and threatened to weaken the arms trade treaty agreement.

Now that the treaty has been passed with overwhelming international support, it will be exceptionally important to ensure that Canada's implementation legislation does not allow for narrow ideological interests or internal politicking to undermine both global security and the safety of all Canadians.

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Le Parti libéral du Canada appuie ce traité historique qui établit des lignes directrices internationales sur le contrôle des exportations d'armes conventionnelles afin de prévenir leur vente dans les zones de conflit ou à des états hors-la-loi.

Au cours de ces négociations, le Canada a renoncé à son rôle de chef de file et a plutôt entravé les discussions en demandant que les armes sportives soient exonérées du traité. Ceci a été un changement considérablement négatif de la position continue du Canada comme chef de file du contrôle multilatéral des armes et a menacé d'affaiblir le Traité sur le commerce des armes.

Maintenant que le traité a été entériné et qu'il jouit d'un immense appui international, il sera particulièrement important de s'assurer que la mise en application de la législation canadienne n'ouvre pas la porte à des intérêts idéologiques étroits ou à un battage politique interne qui mettraient en danger à la fois la sécurité mondiale et la sécurité de toutes les Canadiennes et de tous les Canadiens.

6. *Countries with known human rights abuses to have little trouble obtaining weapons. Notwithstanding your party's position on the Arms Trade Treaty, what steps will your government take to ensure that Canadian weapons do not end up in the hands of those who known or suspected to abuse human rights?*

The Liberal Party of Canada supports Arms Trade Treaty, which establishes international guidelines on the export control of conventional weapons in order to prevent the sale of these weapons to conflict zones and outlaw states. A Liberal government will ensure the treaty is implemented.

\*

Le Parti libéral du Canada appuie le Traité sur le commerce des armes qui établit des lignes directrices internationales sur le contrôle des exportations d'armes conventionnelles afin de prévenir leur vente dans les zones de conflit ou à des états hors-la-loi. Un gouvernement libéral s'assurerait de la mise en application du traité.

### Nuclear Weapons

7. *At the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, Austria issued the Austrian Pledge in which they call on states to "identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons". The Pledge has since been internationalized as The Humanitarian Pledge. It is open for endorsement by other countries and thus far over 100 countries have endorsed the Pledge. If your party forms the government after the 2015 election, will Canada endorse the Humanitarian Pledge?*

The Liberal Party of Canada has always been a leader on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. On January 8 1969, the Liberal government of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau joined the global community by signing and ratifying the



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Treaty on the Non-Proliferation (NPT) of Nuclear Weapons. Since then, the Liberal Party of Canada's position has remained consistent – our party's objective remains the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Our country has been a global leader in the fight to reduce the use of all armaments – from landmines to nuclear weapons – and we will continue our efforts to uphold that proud tradition.

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Le Parti libéral du Canada a toujours été à l'avant-garde de la non-prolifération nucléaire et du désarmement nucléaire. Le 8 janvier 1969, le gouvernement libéral du premier ministre Pierre Elliott Trudeau a rejoint les rangs de la communauté internationale en signant le Traité sur la non-prolifération (TNP) des armes nucléaires. Depuis, la position du Parti libéral est restée la même : l'objectif de notre parti demeure l'élimination complète des armes nucléaires.

Notre pays a été l'avant-garde mondiale de la lutte visant à réduire l'usage de tous les types d'armement, des mines terrestres aux armes nucléaires, et nous poursuivrons nos efforts pour confirmer cette tradition dont nous sommes fiers.

8. *In international disarmament forums, there have been a number of humanitarian statements about nuclear weapons with wide support. Canada has not joined any of the main humanitarian statements over the past three years partially due to objections about the inclusion of the phrase under any circumstances in the sentence, "it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances." If your party forms the government after the 2015 election, will Canada join any future humanitarian statements and state clearly that the use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances is unacceptable? If not, could you please articulate under what circumstances your party believes the use of nuclear weapons is appropriate?*

Liberal Party of Canada's objective is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament is not a pie-in-the-sky project. Rather, it is an act of necessity because of the humanitarian risks that are posed by any degree of proliferation. The Liberal Party of Canada will continue to oppose any measures that would increase the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world.

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L'objectif du Parti libéral du Canada est l'élimination complète des armes nucléaires. Le désarmement nucléaire n'est pas un projet utopique. Il est plutôt une nécessité engendrée par les risques humanitaires posés par tout degré de prolifération. Le Parti libéral du Canada continuera de s'opposer à toute mesure qui encouragerait la prolifération des armes nucléaires dans le monde.

### Emerging Issues on Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict

9. *Canada is participating in the multilateral meetings held since 2014 on technical, legal, ethical, and operational concerns relating to "lethal autonomous weapons systems" or "killer robots" but has said little and has yet to issue national policy on the topic. Autonomous weapons systems are not armed drones, but instead they are future weapons that would be able to select and fire upon targets without human involvement. As of May 2015, Canada does not have a position on autonomous weapons systems. If your party forms the government after 2015, how will your government respond to the concerns raised, including the call to pre-emptively ban systems that would select and attack targets without further human intervention?*

Canada has long been a leader on humanitarian disarmament. Emerging technologies such as Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems pose new and serious ethical questions that must be studied and understood. The Liberal Party of Canada will work with experts and civil society to ensure that the Canadian Government develops appropriate policies to address the use and proliferation of autonomous weapon systems.

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Le Canada est depuis longtemps un chef de file en matière de désarmement humanitaire. Les technologies émergentes, tels les systèmes d'armes létaux autonomes soulèvent de nouvelles questions éthiques qui doivent être étudiées et comprises. Le Parti libéral du Canada collaborera avec des experts et avec des membres de la société civile pour s'assurer que le gouvernement canadien adopte des politiques appropriées relativement à l'utilisation et à la prolifération des systèmes d'armes autonomes.

*10. Recent research confirms that when heavy explosive weapons (weapons with wide area effects) are used in populated areas the vast majority of casualties are civilians. To enhance the protection of civilians from the effects of explosive weapons, members of civil society are calling on states to avoid the use of heavy explosive weapons in populated areas. Will your party support an international political commitment to this effect, and review and strengthen domestic policies and practices on the use of explosive weapons?*

The Liberal Party of Canada believes that all efforts must be made to minimize the humanitarian cost of these conflicts. This is why we led the way on the international treaty to ban the use of landmines, and support the treaty to ban the use of cluster munitions.

\*

Le Parti libéral du Canada croit que tous les efforts doivent être entrepris pour minimiser les coûts humains de ces conflits. C'est pourquoi nous avons tracé le chemin vers le traité international visant à bannir l'utilisation de mines terrestres et avons appuyé le traité visant à bannir l'utilisation d'armes à sous-munitions.

*11. As the use of armed drones for targeted strikes on suspected terrorists grows, so do concerns over the number of civilians who have died in these attacks. If your party forms the next government, what will be the Government of Canada's policy in regards to the international legal framework, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, on the use of armed drones in and outside armed conflict?*

Canada deployed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to Afghanistan for surveillance and tested drones in the Arctic for search and rescue missions and monitoring the Northwest Passage. The RCMP has 18 smaller drones used for surveillance instead of helicopters and is in the process of acquiring several more. No Canadian drones are armed at the moment.

The Liberal Party of Canada believes that all countries, including Canada, must comply with international law and international treaty obligations governing conflict and the use of military force.

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Le Canada a déployé des drones en Afghanistan à des fins de surveillance et a mis ce type de véhicule à l'essai dans l'Arctique pour des missions de recherche et de sauvetage et pour contrôler le passage du Nord-Ouest. La GRC dispose de 18 petits drones qu'elle utilise à la place des hélicoptères pour des missions de surveillance et elle est sur le point d'en acquérir plusieurs autres. Aucun drone canadien n'est actuellement armé.

Le Parti libéral du Canada croit que tous les pays, dont le Canada, doivent se conformer au droit international et aux obligations découlant des traités internationaux régissant les conflits et l'utilisation de la force militaire.

*12. The use of depleted uranium weapons has come under international scrutiny in recent years due to significant concerns about the long term health consequences of their use. If your party forms the next government, what will Canada's policy be on the use of depleted uranium weapons? What will be Canada's position on providing technical and financial assistance in order to aid decontamination of affected states and reduce the risks to civilians?*



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The Liberal Party of Canada opposes the use of depleted uranium munitions.

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Le Parti libéral du Canada s'oppose à l'utilisation de munitions à l'uranium appauvri.

*13. Legal protection for the environment during and after armed conflict lags far behind that afforded to it during peacetime. Yet during conflict the potential for environmental damage, and with it serious consequences for the civilian population, is vast. If your party forms the government after the 2015 election, how will Canada work to minimize environmental damage from conflict and military activities and mitigate the humanitarian risks they pose?*

The Liberal Party of Canada believes that all efforts must be made to minimize the humanitarian cost of these conflicts.

\*

Le Parti libéral du Canada croit que tous les efforts doivent être entrepris pour minimiser les coûts humains de ces conflits.

*14. The International Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict was launched in May 2012 by a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to combating the scourge of sexual and gender violence in conflict. This effort has been widely supported by governments including at the 2014 Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. If your party forms the next government, how would you demonstrate your support for ending the use of sexual and gender violence in conflict? What concrete steps would you take to further your goals?*

Liberals firmly believe that the Canadian government must be an advocacy leader for the rights of women and girls. We must push for high international standards, not roll back on international agreements that we are party to, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Canada must provide strong leadership on women's rights and must push for concrete steps that will provide survivors of sexual violence with the support and services that they urgently need.

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Les libéraux croient fermement que le gouvernement canadien doit être un leader persuasif dans le domaine des droits des femmes et des filles. Nous devons faire pression pour des standards internationaux élevés et ne pas reculer devant les accords internationaux dont nous sommes parties, telle la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes. Le Canada doit fournir un leadership fort en matière de droits des femmes et pousser pour des mesures concrètes qui donneront aux survivantes de la violence sexuelle l'appui et les services dont elles ont urgemment besoin.