



600 Shaftesbury Blvd
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4
Toll free 1-866-888-6785
P: 204-888-6781
F: 204-831-5675
E: office@mennonitechurch.ca
www.mennonitechurch.ca

June 24, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you as Moderator of Mennonite Church Canada, a denomination of over 200 churches and roughly 24,000 members. As a historic peace church, we wish to communicate in the strongest terms our concern over the way federal funds and Canadian economic interests are supporting violent military efforts.

There are two areas of concern for us.

First, we are concerned with the federal government's recent commitment to increase military spending to 2% of Canada's GDP. While we recognize Canada faces pressure from NATO and the United States to meet this target, we are concerned about what this increase in spending means. It means more submarines, armoured vehicles, drones, and other tools of violence and death being made available in a world already characterized by too much violent death. Because you have promised this will not increase taxes, it also means a decrease in spending on other things, perhaps even life-giving Canadian programs within our country and around the world, which provide housing, health care, and more for people in need.

Second, we are concerned with the federal government's continued support of parts built in Canada being shipped to the U.S. for military equipment and munitions destined for use by the Israel Defence Forces. The IDF are wreaking death and destruction in Gaza, with Gaza's health ministry estimating more than 175,000 Gazans killed or injured, including (according to UNICEF) over 50,000 children. Canada has called for a ceasefire in Gaza, which we applaud, but by continuing to allow this ongoing support of the IDF, this call for a ceasefire rings hollow.

For the sake of peace in our world and the well-being of our world's most vulnerable, we strongly urge you to reconsider these areas of military spending and support. Instead, we encourage you to imagine a better use for these funds, a use that positions Canada to be a world leader in bringing about peace and justice throughout the globe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geraldine Balzer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Geraldine Balzer

cc: The Honourable David J. McGuinty, P.C., M.P., Minister of National Defence
The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honourable Andrew Scheer, M.P., House Leader of the Opposition

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11