

Taking the Next Step on the World Stage

The Challenge

Canada has a history of leadership and engagement in the world—a tradition undermined by over a decade of Liberal neglect and weakened by six years of Conservative attack. Now Canada faces shifting tides on the world stage without clear direction, or clear leadership. American power is waning. Global power is shifting. It is not enough to rebuild old policies and institutions. We need new ideas for a new world.

There is no conflict between creating a sustainable, more just economy here in Canada and supporting a richer, more democratic world. But how do we support that goal with concrete policies?

We have to lead with our values. We are—at our core—a multicultural country. Our common language is respect for difference—bounded by a recognition that human rights are universal. Canada does not have the right to enforce change in other countries. But we do have the responsibility to defend and promote the social democratic values that—even if they have often been applied imperfectly—have made Canada one of the most free, just and equal countries in world history.

For too long Canada has been sheltered in the shadow of our closest friend—the United States. Our policies, as a party and a country, revolved around acceptance or rejection of doctrines developed in Washington. Canadians will always maintain close ties with our American neighbours—as is essential when millions of Canadian jobs depend those ties—but we must also recognize that new partners and new challenges are emerging. We must work with our friends, but not be afraid to act independently when our interests diverge—most notably on issues such as international trade and Arctic sovereignty.

We must lead with our values toward a world of citizens, not consumers and corporations. We must remember that trade is a means, not an end. Without the freedom to vote, the choice to join a union and the right to freedom speech and assembly, trade will not guarantee a better quality of life for those who most need it.

Leading toward a world of citizens means seeking trade opportunities with emerging democracies like India while recognizing the serious challenges presented by a growing global dependence on China—a state that still oppresses ethnic minorities and political dissenters.

It means leading toward a world free from war, hunger and environmental devastation.

It means making development assistance central to our foreign policy by moving the Canadian International Development Agency to the heart of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

As Leader of the New Democratic Party, Thomas Mulcair would restore Canada's place on the world stage by developing a more independent foreign policy that will increase our ability to build a better world.



The Harper Failure

The Conservatives have done more damage to Canada's place in the world than any government since the Second World War. Our legacy of peacekeeping and peace building, of working to end conflicts and extending a helping hand to those in need, has been undermined by a government more interested in ideological posturing than strengthening Canada's position in the world.

- The Conservatives froze Official Development Assistance for four years, undermining Canada's ability to deliver on our commitments to friendly countries and development partners alike
- Despite promises to increase development assistance funding to 0.7% of GDP, the Conservative government is on track to cut our contribution to world development aid to 0.28% of GDP by 2014 even as countries with weaker economies like Australia and the United Kingdom do more
- The Conservatives politicized foreign aid, cutting funds to non-government organizations that support a woman's right to choose or speak out against right-wing policies that hurt the most vulnerable
- The Conservatives have continued shift foreign policy priorities without explanation—abandoning our focus in Africa where our help was dearly needed for a concentration in the Americas that has not produced results
- The Conservatives have failed to develop a strategic plan for Canada, investing in unproven fighter jets that don't work in the Arctic—our only border facing possible threats to our sovereignty
- The Conservatives reneged on Canada's commitment to the Kyoto climate change process—the first and only government to do so since George W. Bush withdrew the United States from Kyoto in 2001

Taking the Next Step: Leading with our Values

From international development assistance to protecting human rights, to defense, Canada's foreign policy is in tatters and needs new vision and commitment. As Leader of the New Democratic Party, Thomas Mulcair will make Canada stronger and more respected on the world stage guided by principles that have always been at the core of the party's values: (1) Protecting Canada and our values, (2) Protecting the most vulnerable around the world through emergency humanitarian and carefully targeted development assistance, (3) Integrating trade, aid, military, human rights, and climate change policies and (4) Creating stronger and more effective international institutions, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and international treaties and conventions.

As Leader of the New Democratic Party, Thomas Mulcair will also build on existing party policy to **make ending the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war a priority for an NDP-led government.**

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Increasingly rape and sexual violence are being used as organized weapons of war. Despite significant steps taken to address such violence, a great deal of work remains to be done. We cannot afford to lose focus. We must continue to fight to end this disturbing increase in organized sexual violence and we must make this issue a priority for the next government.

Stopping sexual violence as a weapon of war

- Provide the International Criminal Court with the necessary resources to effectively prosecute sexual violence as a war crime
- Support efforts by the newly created United Nations agency UN Women (The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to implement existing UN resolutions
- Engage with local, frontline experts to develop new strategies for preventing and responding to sexual violence in war zones
- Support the efforts of existing non-governmental organizations coping with the spread of HIV/AIDS stemming from the widespread use of sexual violence in armed conflicts in Africa

Protect Canada and our values

- Put international development assistance at the heart of Canada's foreign policy by merging CIDA into DFAIT.
- Recommit Canada to spend 0.7% of its GDP on development assistance by 2022.
- Resurrect the Democracy Canada initiative abandoned by successive Liberal and Conservative governments.
- Cancel plans to purchase unproven and inappropriate F-35 fighters as the first step in developing a new Strategic Infrastructure Strategy – evaluating actual and likely threats to Canadian territorial sovereignty and recommending appropriate equipment to meet those threats, including ice-breakers, Arctic and other port facilities, border patrol aircraft and surface vessels.

Protect the most vulnerable

- Fortify the ability of Canada's armed forces to respond to crises and disasters, anywhere in the world, and strengthen Canada's role as a world-leader in rapid response and reconstruction efforts



- Ensure that Canadian supported NGOs and multilateral organizations supported by Canadian assistance are empowered to develop innovative programs while being held to the highest standards of accountability and transparency

Integrate aid, trade, human rights, and climate change policies

- Offer preferential trade and assistance to countries based on their commitment to human rights, labour standards and environmental protection
- Offer deeper, longer-term assistance to a more limited number of countries as an incentive to progress, while using the prospect of bilateral treaties on trade or immigration to reduce the problem of aid dependency
- Focus development assistance on countries committed to eliminating corruption as a foundation of good government and social justice
- Implement the recommendations of the National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility to ensure Canadian corporations, especially in the mining and extracting industries, conform to international standards
- Follow Jack Layton's policy of working with partners for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, within a framework of respect for international law and UN resolutions including recognition of the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace as independent states within negotiated and agreed-upon borders
- Make Canada a world leader in the fight against climate change by leading in the development of a global treaty to replace the Kyoto Treaty cynically ignored by the Liberals and abandoned by the Conservatives

Strengthen international institutions

- Reform the United Nations Security Council by including nations such as India and Brazil as permanent members
- Reduce duplication within the United Nations to ensure programs are delivered cost-effectively
- Work with other progressive countries to ensure World Bank and International Monetary Fund programs reflect the need for environmental and social, as well as economic, sustainability



- Support reforms to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure peacekeeping missions respect the best traditions of the international community in regards to respect for human rights and the rule of law

Support and defended our veterans

- Support and defend our veterans, as they have supported and defended the implementation of our foreign policy, by halting any reduction to pensions for retired and disabled veterans
- End the unfair cuts to the Service Income Security Insurance Plan and overhauling the Veterans Review and Appeal Board
- Introduce job-retraining programs for veterans

