



# ***Conscience Canada Peace Tax Return 2007***

**If you work  
for peace...**



**stop paying  
for war.**

***Affirm your refusal to pay for war***   
***Redirect a symbolic part of your military  
taxes***  ***Redirect all your military taxes***

# THE PEACE TAX RETURN: A Declaration of Objection to Military Taxes

## Who is this form for?

This form is for those who **object to military spending on grounds of principle/conscience** and wish to declare their objection to the Canadian government. Although *this is not an official Income Tax and Benefit Return form*, it is not an offense to use it and we are not aware of any criminal charges against any of the 1,000+ Canadians who have expressed conscientious objection to military taxation since Conscience Canada began in 1978.

## How to fill in your Peace Tax Return

The form is in two parts: A and B. Please complete **EITHER** Part A **OR** Part B by signing & dating the declaration.

### Part A

Part A is for those who **wish to make a declaration** without diverting any military taxes, who have no tax to pay, or who have a refund owed to them by Revenue Canada.

**Instructions for Part A:** After signing and dating the declaration in Part A, please mail the declaration along with your Income Tax and Benefit Return form to the Tax Services Office nearest you. Please email or write Conscience Canada to let us know you have done this so we can record your objection to military taxation.

### Part B

Part B is for those whose principles/conscience direct them to divert the percentage of their taxes that contribute to military spending (or a symbolic portion). Since the Canadian government does not currently recognize conscientious objection to military taxation as a legal right, withholding or diverting taxes may result in a variety of responses from CRA, including a legal order to garnish wages or debit bank accounts to pay CRA outstanding taxes and interest. For more information please see [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca) or email [consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca).

## Instructions for Part B:

1. After completing your official Income Tax form down to Balance Due, go back to the Net Federal Tax Line and calculate 8.4% (Department of National Defence expenditures in 2007) of the amount you entered on this line. Deduct that amount (the 8.4%) from your cheque to be sent to the Receiver General. If you have chosen to divert a symbolic sum, deduct the symbolic amount you have chosen.
2. Write a cheque for the amount you are diverting to "Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund" and send it to CC (address below). CC will hold this money in trust and will return it to you at any time at your request. Please specify if you wish the interest on your deposit to be kept segregated or if CC can use it for its operations.
3. After signing and dating the declaration in Part B, return or mail the Peace Tax Return form along with your Income Tax and Benefit Return form to the Tax Centre or Tax Services Office nearest you.

## Copies to the Minister of Finance and other MPs

We encourage you to send a copy of your Peace Tax Return along with a letter to the Minister of Finance explaining why you wish to have your taxes supporting peace rather than killing. We also encourage you to send copies of your letter (postage free to House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6, or via email) to the Minister of Revenue, to all Party Leaders, and to your MP. Contact info can be found at <http://www.consciencecanada.ca>.

## Conscience Canada's Peace Tax Trust Fund

Until a Conscientious Objection Bill is passed into legislation, Conscience Canada provides a positive option. By directing some or all of the military portion of your taxes into Conscience Canada's Peace Tax Trust Fund, you send a message to the Canadian government that you want your taxes to be used for peace, not war.



### Yes! I object to paying for war and want my taxes to work for peace

- I have completed Conscience Canada's *Peace Tax Return* and have mailed a copy to the Canada Revenue Agency with my 2007 Income Tax and Benefit Return form.
- I have informed my MP, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Revenue, the Prime Minister, and the leaders of the opposition parties of my objection to military taxation and my desire for peace tax legislation.

Name:

Date:

Address:

Return to Conscience Canada, 901-70 Mill Street, Toronto, ON M5A 4R1

## Peace Tax Return

### Identification

Name		
Mailing address: Apt. No. – Street No. Street Name		
P.O. Box	R. R.	
City	Prov./Terr.	Postal code

**For Canada Revenue Agency use only – do not use this area**

Received	
<b>Action taken</b>	<b>Date</b>
Reply sent	
Copy to Minister of Finance	

**Instructions:** Please carefully read the instructions included with this form and then complete **EITHER** Part A **OR** Part B by **signing and dating the statement that applies to you.**

#### Part A

If you complete Part A please return or mail this form, along with your *Income Tax and Benefit Return* form, to the Tax Centre or Tax Services Office nearest you. Please mail the coupon on the opposite page to Conscience Canada, or email [consciencecanada@shaw.ca](mailto:consciencecanada@shaw.ca) so we can record your objection.

#### A

- I claim the right of conscience under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to refuse to pay that portion of my income tax which contributes to the preparation for and the execution of war.
- I object to having my taxes conscripted to pay for capital-intensive modern warfare.
- I request that legislation be enacted to create a government controlled Peace Fund, into which that portion of my taxes used for military purposes may be placed.
- I believe that non-military peace building initiatives are more effectual, cost effective, and will not offend my conscience/principles or deny my human rights.
- Please recognize my human right to exercise my conscientious objection to war by ensuring that none of my taxes are used for military purposes.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part B

If you complete Part B please return or mail this form, along with your *Income Tax and Benefit Return* form, to the Tax Centre or Tax Services Office nearest you. Make out a cheque for the diverted income tax amount to *Conscience Canada Peace Tax Trust Fund* and send it to Conscience Canada.

#### B

- I claim the right of conscience under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to refuse to pay that portion of my income tax which contributes to the preparation for and the execution of war.
- I object to having my taxes conscripted to pay for capital-intensive modern warfare.
- I believe in paying all of my taxes but on grounds of conscience I am diverting \$\_\_\_\_\_ of owed federal tax for tax year 2007 to the Peace Tax Trust Fund of Conscience Canada until such time as legislation permits me to place it in a government controlled Peace Fund. This amount represents either the full military portion of my federal income tax (8.4% for the 2007 tax year) or a symbolic portion of it.
- I believe that non-military peace building initiatives are more effectual, cost effective, and will not offend my conscience/principles or deny my human rights.
- Please recognize my human right to exercise my conscientious objection to war by ensuring that none of my taxes are used for military purposes.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE PEACE TAX RETURN: A Declaration of Objection to Military Taxes

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the state of our world. We sense that humanity's priorities are way out of line, and statistics tell us that is indeed the case: with about one third of what the world spends each year on its militaries, we could fund programs to meet basic human needs and also address critical emerging problems such as climate change.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, even a democracy like Canada finds itself embroiled in war and human rights violations in Afghanistan, Haiti, Somalia, and elsewhere. Insisting that our taxes be used to build peace directly, through nonviolent peace-building measures, and refusing to pay for militarism, is one way we can help turn the tide and make our voices heard.

The Canadian Forces include many exceptional human beings who are willing to risk their lives to improve life for others. However, through our taxes, we are training these wonderful people to kill. Canada's Chief of Defence Staff, Rick Hillier, says this unequivocally: "We are the Canadian Forces, and our job is to be able to kill people".<sup>2</sup>

We are told this war-making is for a host of worthy causes and that we would be naïve to believe there was any other viable option. But nonviolence, the "force more powerful", has been used effectively even against murderous regimes such as apartheid and the Nazis. If anything is naïve, it is to believe that war-making is primarily about protecting human rights and promoting peace and democracy. War brings massive profits from arms sales, seizure of natural resources, and corporate takeovers in occupied lands. Today's wars are sold to us as a means to fight terrorism, yet numerous people have observed that war breeds terrorism.<sup>3</sup>

We can learn from the examples of many who resisted great evil non-violently, from all the people who boycotted the racist apartheid regime in South Africa to Gandhi and his Afghan friend Badshah Kahn, that nonviolence is, indeed, the "force more powerful".<sup>4</sup> The Afghan population (and Canada) would be much safer if Canada followed Dr. Seddik Weera's advice to "invest in multi-level peace talks, assist political parties, and support a national reconciliation program" in Afghanistan,<sup>5</sup> or follow the "Third Option" presented by McMaster University's Centre for Peace Studies<sup>6</sup> to the Canadian government as a constructive way to engage in war-torn countries rather than contributing to further violence.

We need to look at our priorities. How do we want to direct our energies? Here are some facts worth considering:

- It is estimated that it would cost \$430 per person per year to prevent the most disastrous effects of climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>7</sup> Meanwhile, Canada spends more than \$523 per person per year on its military.<sup>8</sup>
- With \$100 we could buy 10 blankets for refugees or 10 hand grenades.<sup>9</sup>
- In 1981, Canada had 1,149 members of its armed forces involved in UN peacekeeping missions. By 2006 that number had declined to 56.<sup>10</sup>
- Canada is now the 6th largest supplier of armaments to the world<sup>11</sup> while Canada's ranking among 22 OECD ODA (overseas development aid) donor countries fell from 6th in 1995 to 17th in 2000.<sup>12</sup>
- Canada is now NATO's 6th highest military spender while, amongst the 41 industrialized nations that agreed to specific reduction targets under the Kyoto accord, Canada ranks 7th from the bottom.<sup>13</sup>

Nonviolence offers no easy, safe path to security; there is no way to make ourselves completely safe. But nonviolence is an effective and ethical choice for our times. Please check out our FAQ at [www.consciencecanada.ca/questions](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/questions) for more discussion about difficult issues such as non-violent responses to tyranny and genocide, and for more information about what happens to people who redirect the military portion of their taxes to a peace tax trust fund. For other ideas on how you can take action, see [www.consciencecanada.ca/you](http://www.consciencecanada.ca/you) or contact us at the address below.

## Join us now so that some day you can stop paying for war!

CITED SOURCES are all available online; for full citations contact Conscience Canada. (1) World Game Institute (1998), *What the world wants and how to pay for it using military expenditures*; (2) Leblanc, D. (2005, July 15), JTF2 to hunt al-Qaeda, *Globe & Mail*; (3) For example, "War on terror may breed more terrorism, experts tell Madrid summit" (2005, March 9), Agence France Presse; (4) <http://www.aforcemorepowerful.org>; (5) Weera, S. (2006, March 3), Canada should also invest in peace in Afghanistan, *Toronto Star*; (6) Santa Barbara, J. (2006), A 'third option' for Canada in Afghanistan, *Peace Magazine*, 22(4); (7) Stern, N. (2006), *Stern review on the economics of climate change*; (8) Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada (2007), *Public Accounts of Canada*; (9) Schriener, R. (2003), *US military consumption*; (10) Staples, S. (2006), *Marching orders*; (11) CBC News (2007, October 29), Canada's military exports soar as numbers go unreported; (12) Pistor, M. (2007), *Official development assistance spending*; (13) Staples, S., & Robinson, B. (2007), *More than the cold war*.

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**For more information, contact Conscience Canada**  
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