

Former Green Leader Fearful of Greens Helping Elect Right-wing Government

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Greens could contribute to the election of a militaristic right-wing government in Canada. Currently the right wing Conservative Party is leading the polls at 34 %, the Liberal Party-center right is at 31 %, the NDP-progressive left party is at 17%, and the Green party is at 7% of decided voters. The worst scenario will be a majority Conservative government.

The Conservative Party supported the invasion of Iraq, the Ballistic Missile defence, abandoning Kyoto, extensive increase in the Military budget, has many anti-choice members, and generally opposed to "judicial activism" - Supreme Court rulings protecting minority rights.

I left the Green Party and have come out in support of the NDP the most progressive party that has a chance of electing members of Parliament. Although the Green Party declares that it is neither left nor right; it will hurt the left party, the NDP.

When the environmental Platforms of the NDP and the Green Party are compared, the NDP is calling for the reversal of the trend of reliance o-n voluntary measures, to move to mandatory regulatory regimes, while the Green Party has come out in support of ISO 14000-a scheme of voluntary compliance crafted by industry to counter mandatory regulatory regimes.

It is doubtful that the Greens will win any seats but they will prevent the NDP from electing members in tight ridings. , or the Greens could even contribute to the NDP losing its Party Status in Parliament, which would mean that there will be no real voice for peace in Parliament.

The best hope that we have now is a minority Liberal government with the NDP holding the balance of power.

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Canada would become an international pariah under a majority Conservative government

If the Conservatives form a majority government, Canada could become an international Pariah. Harper appears to be willing to discard obligations incurred through international covenants, treaties and conventions, and abandon commitments made at international conferences. The Conservatives are perpetuating the myth that Canada has international credibility though increasing its military capacity.

For years Canada along with other member states of the United Nations made a commitment to reallocate military expenses, and transfer the peace dividend to global social justice. International credibility depends on Canada's international contribution to common security or to the public trust

- (i) guaranteeing Human rights including, international civil and political rights, and social economic and cultural rights- right to social service, medical care, education, right to housing , right to food- , labour rights, women's rights,
- (ii) preventing war and conflict- reallocating the military budget, condemning the policy of pre-emptive or retaliatory aggression, ending the arms trade, and by advocating "common security"-peace, human rights, environment and social justice- not military security- such as ballistic missile defence mechanisms or "human security which has been used as a means for legitimizing "humanitarian military invasions"
- (iii) fulfilling the commitment to provide .7 % of the GDP for overseas aid and development, and calling for the cancellation of "third world debt"
- (iv) ensuring that corporations comply with international law, and revoking charters and licences of corporations that violate human rights, destroy the environment, deny social justice and contribute to war and conflict
- (v) Respecting the rule of law, and recognizing the jurisdiction and decisions of the International Court of Justice
- (vi) Signing and ratifying international instruments and enacting the necessary legislation to ensure compliance
- (vii) Not reneging on previous international instruments- Kyoto is the protocol linked to the Framework Convention on Climate change, that was signed by Prime Minister Mulroney in Rio in June 1992, and

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ratified by Mulroney in December 1992

(viii) Respecting the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose as agreed by Canada in the 1982 UN GA resolution "World Charter of Nature" and the Commitment made at Habitat II to reduce the Ecological Footprint.

(ix) Implementing long standing commitments made even as far back as UNCHE 1972, and Habitat I 1976, to provide safe environmentally sound energy and public transportation

(x) Discontinuing the export of Canadian uranium which in many cases has contributed to the development of nuclear arms in defiance of the commitment made in Stockholm to prevent the production, of weapons of mass destruction, and end the export of CANDU reactors.

(xi) Prohibiting the circulating and berthing of nuclear powered, and nuclear arms capable vessels in Nova Scotia and British Columbia,

(xii) Invoking the precautionary principle which states that where there is a threat to the environment or human health lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent the threat. Thus preventing substances and practices that are harmful to human health or the environment

(xiii) Discontinuing the Canadian practice of using Trade agreements to undermine the resolve of developing countries to refuse to import Canadian produced genetically engineered foods, and other harmful products such as Asbestos

(xiv) Preventing discrimination by fully implementing the International Convention on the Prevention of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women, along with the commitment in the Beijing Platform of Action and the reproductive rights provisions in the International Conference on Population and Development.

(xv) Advocating the dissolution of the UN Security Council which violates a fundamental principle in the Charter of the United Nations- the principle of sovereign equality. and calling for the strengthening of the role of the UN General Assembly which embodies the principle of state equality

(xvi) Advocating the disbanding of NATO, and dismantling of NORAD

(xvii) Establishing a mechanism whereby an external all party appointed Auditing body, which could assess the legitimacy of government policy expenditures. Such as over 5 billion being spent by both Conservative and Liberal governments on subsidizing civil nuclear energy,

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Canada has increasingly lost respect internationally not because it has failed to support the US-led recent military intervention, but because Canada is increasingly perceived to be a lackey of the United States. With Harper, as Prime Minister Canada will become indistinguishable from the US.

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