



# Liberals release plan to rebuild, reinvest, and rearm the Canadian Armed Forces

Canada has entered a new geopolitical era where it faces direct threats to its sovereignty and a far more dangerous and divided world order. Russia's ruthless aggression in launching a new European war with the invasion of Ukraine shattered previous assumptions of post-Cold War security. Increased instability and conflict have become all too common around the world. And for the first time in living memory, an American President is making direct and repeated threats to our sovereignty.

Ten years ago under a Conservative government, defence spending was only 1% of GDP. This year, we are expected to spend 1.4%. We need to increase this significantly and quickly in order to meet our security needs and those of our allies. Under Mark Carney's new government, we will build up our military capabilities and in doing so, enable us to meet our 2% NATO target by the end of the decade. We will ensure every dollar is spent wisely, prioritizing made-in-Canada over expenditures in the United States.

It's time to rebuild, reinvest, and rearm the Canadian Armed Forces with a day-one plan to make Canada strong. In recent days Canada has begun taking concrete steps to solidify our defence and trading relationships with our allies, particularly within NATO. We have also begun new investments in our Arctic sovereignty defence capabilities.

A Mark Carney-led Liberal government will make meaningful and rapid new investments in the Canadian Armed Forces to defend our sovereignty, meet our responsibilities as a trusted ally, and create incredible new jobs as we strengthen the Canadian defence industry:

→ Expand the capabilities of the Navy with new submarines and additional heavy icebreakers to defend the North.

→ Fully commit to all orders underway through the National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSS) where 21,400 jobs across the country and thousands of jobs for Irving Shipbuilding have been supported by the Strategy through the construction of 8 Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships and 15 River Class Destroyers.

→ We will work with all of Canada's shipyards to ensure that we are maximizing their capabilities and using Canadian steel and aluminum.

→ We will expand the reach and abilities of the Canadian Coast Guard and integrate them into our NATO defence capabilities. Our Coast Guard carries out important work, but we need to update their mission to face changing realities to protect our sovereignty and counter criminal activity, like the trafficking of illicit drugs. That's why we will give the Canadian Coast Guard a new mandate—and the right equipment—to conduct maritime surveillance operations to secure our coasts.

→ Fill the CAF's shortage of 14,500 members by modernizing our recruitment process, giving all CAF members a well-deserved raise, building new on-base housing, and improving access to doctors, mental health services, and childcare; and

**CANADA STRONG**



- We will ensure that Canadian troops defending Canada at home have the same equipment capabilities as those defending our allies abroad.
- We will end the chronic lapsing of defence spending, through the creation of a defence capital account that ensures that even when the timing of an investment changes, every dollar assigned to Canada's defence will remain for that purpose.
- From CAF infrastructure, including Naval infrastructure in Halifax, to build-ready assets or ready-to-be-purchased equipment, we must invest immediately with no excuse for leaving funds on the table to improve Canada's defence capabilities.
- We will deliver an unprecedented acceleration of investment in our Armed Forces so that we can defend every inch of our sovereign territory, while also helping to support and defend our allies abroad.
- Partner with our allies on procurement for the next generation of aircrafts.
- We will modernize our procurement legislation to ensure our Forces can buy the equipment that they need, when they need it—which is now. We can also swiftly surpass our existing defence spending targets and bolster our capabilities by investing in dual purpose infrastructure—whether housing, cybersecurity, or satellite technology—that delivers immediate benefits for both our Forces and the public.
- Creating a first-in-class drone capability that will build and deploy aquatic and airborne uncrewed vehicles to defend our arctic, our undersea infrastructure, our borders, and our allies. This new capability will be matched with an industrial strategy that builds and perfects these technologies so that Canadian companies benefit from Canadian procurements.

This new Liberal plan will ensure our Armed Forces have the tools they need to protect our country from coast to coast for decades to come, while creating higher-paying jobs here at home. Additional investments will also be announced as part of the full Liberal platform.