

# the ACTivist

Newspaper of the  
ACT for Disarmament Coalition

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pay what you can

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## Peace: There's no life like it

Now, more urgently than ever, non-profit, politically independent groups working for change - groups like ACT for Disarmament - need your support.

The Progressive Conservative Party has won majority re-election. For five more years, we can anticipate a federal government whose agenda will be diametrically opposed to the goals of the peace movement, the ecology movement, the human rights movement...

In the aftermath of the November 21 federal election, we must draw some conclusions for our future work.

**THE FREE TRADE Agreement (FTA)** can only lead to the further militarization of Canada.

Under this Agreement, military production is exempt. Regional development will increasingly become a competition amongst the "have-not" provinces for a share of the "defence" market action.

The FTA poses a direct threat to the chances of an independent Canadian foreign policy. With its extreme economic integration, economic production will become increasingly tied to supporting US foreign policy, on threat of economic reprisal. Will the health of our economy ultimately become dependent on our political acceptance of nuclear weapons?

**THE ROLE OF SOCIAL** movements has taken on greater importance with Free Trade. Social movements will be the only effective opposition to Mulroney's complacent majority.

Peace activists must work to prevent the further militarization of our society. We must work with all other independent social movements to continue building protest and resistance to militarism.

Mulroney has no mandate for a neo-conservative agenda. We must work to raise the public



debate about specific aspects of militarism and challenge the aligned "peace-through-strength" philosophies that promote them.

Peace activists must get active and financially support a peace movement, like ACT's, committed to challenging militarism.

**ACTIVISTS CAN BEST** challenge central authority by organizing local awareness. Our self-interests are not best realized through strategies of "elching peace". Instead of encouraging Canadians to vote for "peace politicians" once every four years, peace activists should encourage Canadians to

take control of their own lives. Peace is a daily concern.

**THE ONLY WAY TO** challenge militarism in Canada will be to get to the root of the problem. Our membership in NATO advances the military bloc system and makes possible all the other problems: the arms trade, weapons testing, nuclear exports and military spending. Any initiatives for peace we take will fall short if they do not challenge NATO. As Helen Caldicott emphasized on her cross-Canada tour, NATO is a nuclear, first-strike organization. An independent Canadian foreign policy can only become a reality when all campaigns call for Canadian withdrawal from NATO.

**MORE THAN ANYTHING,** peace activists must become part of the greater "Save the Planet" protest movement.

It's time for the entire peace movement to return to the philosophy of "Think globally, act locally". We have to build peace in our own communities.

Dear Activist,

It is rather unusual to make a front-page appeal for financial support. Unfortunately, we must.

We work hard to keep the peace presence alive in our communities. And, we do so as volunteers. No one in ACT for Disarmament gets paid to do this vital work. We don't even accept government grants. So, we really do rely on people like yourself for money.

We need your financial help. Desperately. Our annual budget (more accurately, our annual needs) is around \$15,000. This pays for telephone, peace centre, annual spring protest for peace and Hiroshima day march, anti-cruise testing protests, lots of smaller demonstrations, attendance at various peace conferences, and

this newsletter *the Activist* (which we hope to produce every other month - 6 times a year - with your help).

If you really care about helping to make Canada a peacemaker, you'll write us a cheque now.

A subscription to *the Activist* is \$25 for a lifetime or just \$5 a year. Want to receive a provincial political tax credit? See p. 2 for details.

Please be generous. We can't go on without you.

- 1000 - \$5 subscribers will produce this paper 6/year
- 12 - \$100 sustainers pay for the phone bills
- 60 - \$50 sustainers really help build the annual spring protest for peace
- 100 - \$200 sustainers and look out, militarists!

## Please be Generous

# Donate to ACT - Get a Tax Break

Let us tell you about frustration. It's seeing a super-energetic, concerned young peace activist come into our office full of creative ideas to promote peace - but not being able to say to that person, "Great! Here's \$50 (or \$100, or \$200) for your peace project. It's sure to be a great success and reach lots of people."

Frustration is never seeing that person again.

## To Our Supporters:

Have you considered making a major donation to ACT but thought you couldn't afford it? Have you decided to make a donation to charity instead, knowing you could get a tax reduction? Now, thanks to the Riverdale Greens, you can make a donation to ACT and get an INCOME TAX CREDIT as well.

The RIVERDALE GREEN CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION supports our work for peace, and now has a policy of turning over to ACT any donation it receives from people wanting to support the peace part of its program. With Ontario election laws, such donations are seen as a donation to a political party (since the cheque is made out to them) and thus entitles you to an income tax credit for having donated to a political party.

Donations to political parties are better tax write-offs than donations to charities. This is because the first \$200 gives a 75% rebate on your income tax form.

ACT is composed of members with a number of different political views. The general membership accepted the offer of the Riverdale Greens because people who are making major donations to ACT would have some way of receiving a tax benefit for supporting us. *It does not tie us or you to the Green Party in any way.*

Now supporters have two options... sending a cheque directly to ACT, or sending a donation to the Riverdale Greens Constituency Association, saying you support peace. They will send an equal amount to ACT and mail you a receipt for income tax purposes.

We need your support; donations from our sympathizers are essential for our work to be successful. Thanks to the Greens, you can also get a tax break!

You can help by giving on the tax credit (see below).

Now, a donation of \$200 will only cost \$50. Both spouses are eligible to give. Think of making an annual pledge to ACT while transferring your money from the government to the peace movement. It's this kind of support we need to best promote peace issues in our communities. Thank-you for caring.

ACT encourages all individuals who would like a receipt for political contributions to send a cheque denoting their area(s) of interest(s) to RIVERDALE GREENS CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION whose policy is to send ALL monies earmarked for Peace, directly, wholly, and exclusively to ACT.

NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
POSTAL CODE _____	PHONE _____	
If you pay income tax, you can get up to 75% of your donation back in rebate directly off your tax payable (i.e. you give \$100.00, you get back \$75.00, so it costs you only \$25.00).		
FOR:	Peace <input type="checkbox"/>	These represent
	Ecologism <input type="checkbox"/>	the four main
	Conservatism <input type="checkbox"/>	objectives and goals
	Decentralism <input type="checkbox"/>	of our Greens.
TO: RIVERDALE GREEN CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION		
c/o 456 Spadina Av, Toronto ON M5T 2G8		
Checkmark(s) indicate where money is to be spent.		

# Taking Peace into the Future

It was at this time in 1982 that ACT was formed to coordinate Canadian passion Against Cruise Testing. In April of 1983, 25,000 Torontonians took to the streets, in conjunction with protests in 20 other cities. This protest was the high-water mark in our history and entrenched two forms of activism which have remained fundamental throughout our existence: mass public protest and peace education.

Like the anti-Free Trade movement, the anti-cruise movement is largely perceived as a "cause that failed" (at least in the first round). Many longtime activists felt dejected that the cause to which they devoted so much energy, for which they had aroused such massive protests, failed to succeed, failed to change policy.

But for some reason, cruise missile testing did not mean the death of the peace movement. Where old activists became inactive, new people came forward to continue the movement, to keep the movement alive.

Even at this late date ACT still pulls out over 1000 people at each of its major demonstrations: primarily young people who have not experienced the disappointments of failed

campaigns, who are grateful for the existence of an active peace movement, who passionately take the streets with shouts and chants at the spring peace protest in April and in silence on Hiroshima day.

This is why we call on those who can, more than ever, to support the movement with any donation, no matter how small. Help prevent these new activists from burning out before they can realize their potential, before they realize that, yes, they can change the world. Please be generous. The reason for this burnout is a movement which has a great supply of energy and talent but little money.

There are numerous ways you can support ACT:

- a subscription to the ACTivist for \$5 (or more!)
- giving on the provincial tax credit (see above)
- personal cheques for ACT for Disarmament
- and of course, becoming more active in ACT yourself: poster, holding meetings, helping to organize groups in your area.

The peace movement can and will be strong, but only with your support.

# You Are the Peace Movement

# WHAT YOU ARE SUPPORTING

## Making Canada a Peacemaker

Canada hasn't been a "peacemaker" for years. Since a few Torontonians came together in late 1982 as the Against Cruise Testing (ACT) coalition, Canada has become a more warlike nation. When we broadened our focus and became ACT for Disarmament in 1985, it was in response to Canada's further military buildup for the next war.

Our government has surrendered our skies to the US military. Not only does **cruise missile testing** continue over the West, we have also given up the right to defend our own aerospace under **NORAD**. **Military spending** is on the rise and **Star Wars research** by Canadian companies has been allowed, while the government schemes to buy 8-12 **nuclear submarines** against the wishes of 70% of Canadians. We are opposed to all this madness!

## Helping Nato Out (of Canada)

**Imagine...** 50 supersonic jets a day screaming over your home. This is daily life for the Innu, the native people of Labrador and northern Quebec. These flights cause major human suffering and environmental damage.

Since September, hundreds of Innu have occupied runways at **Goose Bay Labrador** in an attempt to stop the destruction caused by these low level flight tests and practice bomber runs. The Canadian government now wants to increase the number of tests to **over 200 a day** and to build the first NATO base in North America on Innu land.

Many of the Innu people who blocked the runway have been arrested, simply for asserting their right to live peacefully on their own land.

## Nuclear Power is a Bomb

Canada makes one of its greatest contributions to the arms race with exports of **uranium** to bomb-making states. Canadian uranium is re-processed into bomb fuel in France, the United States and even the Soviet Union. Under Free Trade, the US has received easier access to our uranium deposits, the largest and some of the richest in the world.

With the recent closing of the **Savannah River** nuclear plant in Georgia, the US military has no supplier of **tritium**. They desperately need, and will demand, Ontario-produced tritium (a byproduct of Ontario Hydro's reactors). A few grams of tritium are now present in all nuclear weapons. Tritium provides more blast for the buck. As the radioactive half-life of tritium is only 12 years, it decays quickly, so the tritium in bombs must be replaced regularly. We must work to prevent the export of tritium, and to keep the uranium in the ground - the only safe place for it.

## A World Without War: Peace, Ecology and Human Rights

ACT for Disarmament is a part of the international non-aligned peace movement. **Non-alignment** means you support the right to protest for peace anywhere, you reject the Cold War and the military blocs which propel the world towards unavoidable and irreparable nuclear catastrophe, and you oppose militarism wherever it rears its ugly head.

Non-alignment stands above the hypocrisy of both superpowers. It recognizes the right to self-determination of all nations, whether in the east, west or south.

Your vision includes hopes for a **nuclear-free world**, a **re-greening of the planet**, and a yearning for respect of **human rights**.

**Everyone can do Something**

## ACT Chapters

ACT Niagara, PO Box 284, Main Station  
St. Catharines Ont. L2R 6T7, phone (416) 934-6233

ACT Oakville, PO Box 7378, Oakville Ont.  
L6J 6L6, phone (416) 845 5092

ACT Toronto, 456 Spadina Av, 2nd floor  
Toronto, Ont. MST 2G8, phone (416) 960 2228

ACT Vancouver, c/o 707 E St James Rd, North  
Vancouver BC, V7K 1G9, phone (604) 988 3740

## ACT Contacts

Brantford: Brant Youth for Peace  
PO Box 991, Brantford Ont.

Cornwall: Sean Clifton, 1308 Princess St  
Cornwall Ont. K6J 1S5

Hamilton: Centre for Radical Social Change  
45 Melville St, Dundas Ont. L9H 1Z7

Kitchener-Waterloo: Brett Hopf, PO Box 1490,  
Station C, Kitchener Ont. N2G 4P2

Orillia: Saul Cheron, PO Box 611, Orillia Ont.

Peterborough: Sharon MacAlpine, 716 Park St S,  
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# EAST TIMOR...



On December 7, 1975 Indonesia invaded the neighbouring country of East Timor. During the past twelve years, the genocidal war of the Indonesian army against the people of East Timor has claimed the lives of 200,000 to 300,000 Timorese through fighting, executions and starvation - up to one third of the population.

The invasion of East Timor was only possible with the military and economic aid of Canada and the United States. Even now, the war continues with Canada's economic, diplomatic and military support. We Canadians must stop being a part of it.

Demonstrate • Wed. Dec. 7 • 4-6 pm  
Indonesian Consulate, 425 University Ave.  
or call the Consulate at 591-6461 to register your protest

For more information call ACT for Disarmament, 960-2228

## What is ACT?

ACT for Disarmament is a non-aligned coalition of activist groups and individuals dedicated to mobilizing Canadians against our country's deepening involvement in the arms race. We began as the Against Cruise Testing coalition in late 1982 and have organized some of the largest demonstrations in Canada. We have since continued to focus on this issue as well as broadening out as Canada's involvement in U.S. military strategy becomes more inextricable.

We believe that peace and ecology are inseparable. Thus we campaign against nuclear power, which fuels the arms race and poisons our environment. We cannot ignore Canada's increasing reliance on this dangerous technology.

As part of the international non-aligned peace movement, we are opposed to the militaristic policies of both superpowers and their military blocs. We believe that peace can only be achieved through the united efforts of people, East and West, working independently of their governments. ACT for Disarmament publicly supports the right of people to work for peace, free from government interference, in both blocs.

ACT strives to reach people in all walks of life. In keeping with our belief that people can bring about change, we concentrate much of our energy on mobilizing people, both by building mass demonstrations and by networking on the local, national and international levels. We believe that sustained, highly public action is the strongest lever we have on government policy and that demonstrations are an effective way of expressing our view in a democratic society.



## History of Action

1983

*Feb. 12:* ACT networks demonstrations across Canada and mobilizes 4000 Torontonians 45 hours after the umbrella weapons testing agreement. *April 23:* ACT organizes the historic anti-cruise march of 25,000 in Toronto and networks Canada's largest day of protest to date: about 125,000 in over 20 cities. *July 23:* ACT co-ordinates nationwide (and US!) reaction to the cruise testing agreement - 6000 march up Yonge St in Toronto. *Aug. 6:* Hiroshima commemoration and protest. *Oct. 22:* ACT co-organizes a march which again brings over 25,000 in Toronto. *Dec. 16:* ACT holds a small but significant protest as part of the successful campaign to free independent Soviet peace activist Olga Medvedkova.

1984

*March 10:* National demonstrations in response to the first cruise test. ACT had finally won the right to march up Yonge St without a permit. *April 28:* ACT's second annual Spring Peace Protest attracts over 10,000 participants. *Aug. 6:* ACT's second Hiroshima day march.

1985

*Jan.* Symbolic action marks the first cruise test. "Saturday after" march - over 500 brave the cold. *Feb. 19:* Second cruise test - nearly 200 people present pictures of their children at a weekday, noon-hour protest at PC Party headquarters. *April 27:* 3rd Annual Peace Protest draws over 4000. *Aug. 6-9:* ACT's Hiroshima day candlelight march of over 2500 is followed by a 3-day vigil.

1986

*Jan-Feb:* ACT Niagara & ACT Kitchener-Waterloo join ACT Toronto to protest the cruise tests. *April 26:* 4000, many first-time demonstrators, join ACT Toronto's 4th Spring Peace Protest. *May 11:* ACT K-W's Mother's Day March is the largest peace demonstration ever in Kitchener-Waterloo. *Aug. 6-9:* ACT chapters hold actions on the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. *Oct. 13-19:* ACT's historic East-West peace festival brings together independent peace, ecology, labour & feminist activists from both sides in the Cold War.

1987

*Feb:* ACT chapters in Hamilton, Ancaster, K-W, Peterborough, St. Catharines & Toronto protest continued cruise testing. *April 25:* A youthful crowd of 3000 is out for ACT Toronto's 5th Annual Peace Protest. *July-Aug:* ACT Vancouver holds protests against US warship visits. *Aug. 6-9:* Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemorations.

1988

*Jan-Feb:* All 8 ACT chapters hold anti-cruise protests in the wake of the INF agreement. Protests are also held in Europe and the US. *April 25:* ACT Toronto's 6th Spring Protest: 1500 protest in the rain.