



Conférence religieuse canadienne
Canadian Religious Conference
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CANADA

Montreal, 2015, January 20

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A0

Dear Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

On behalf of the members of the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), I am writing to urge the federal government to sign the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) at the United Nations without delay and begin treaty ratification in Canada as soon as possible.

By signing the ATT, Canada would join the large majority of UN member states that have already signed the treaty to create a safer world for the thousands of civilians living under the threat of violence. For many countries, the ATT will raise conventional weapons import and export standards without having any appreciable impact on legal gun-owners in Canada.

In April 2013, Canada was one of 155 UN member states that voted in favour of the ATT's adoption. Since then, all of Canada's traditional security partners, including all other NATO members, have signed the treaty. Several have also passed the necessary domestic legislation for ratification.

I urge you to listen to the millions of people who live in daily fear of armed violence and to the thousands of Canadians who for more than 10 years have worked on this issue. I urge Canada to implement an international treaty that would better regulate the irresponsible arms trade.

The devastating humanitarian consequences of current conflicts around the world highlight the urgent need for regulation of the arms trade. The ATT will not resolve current crises, but will surely help contribute to prevention of similar future crises. Canada must sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty without hesitation.

Representing 203 religious orders with 15,500 members, the CRC is the largest association of Roman Catholic religious orders in Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please be assured of our continued prayers for you and for the Government of Canada as you carry out your responsibilities.

Sr. Rita Larivée, SSA
President