

# Davenport Neighbours for Peace



Fall 2008

Dear Neighbours,

Davenport Neighbours for Peace is a local peace group comprised of folks from the Davenport neighbourhood. We initially came together to oppose the invasion of Iraq in 2002 and have been uniting Davenport neighbours for the past six years.

**October 14, 2008 is the Federal Election** and it is an important time to think about which candidates are willing to build a just peace, both at home and abroad.

We are encouraging Davenport neighbours to ask the following questions of electoral candidates.

On **October 14**, Davenport Neighbours for Peace encourages you to **VOTE** for peace. On **October 18**, we urge you to **MARCH** for peace in the Pan-Canadian Day of Action for Troops out of Afghanistan.

For more information please visit:

[www.Davenport4Peace.ca](http://www.Davenport4Peace.ca)  
[www.nowar.ca](http://www.nowar.ca)



## 1. Spending Priorities

The government of Stephen Harper has committed to increasing military spending by an average of \$24 billion every year for the next 20 years. By contrast, the Harper government eliminated the national child care plan that would cost a mere \$1 billion annually.

*If elected, would you and your party commit to re-directing a mere 4% of its military spending to fund a national child care program that will benefit families across Canada—especially those in low-wage jobs?*

Toronto has lost over 150,000 good jobs. It has been estimated that congestion in Toronto costs all Torontonians \$2 billion every year in lost productivity. Yet for only \$2 billion – a fraction of the amount Harper has devoted to the military – Toronto could significantly upgrade its transportation system and turn Toronto into a leader in accessible, green public transportation – and put thousands of people back to work in good, decent jobs.

*If elected, would you and your party commit to re-directing the nearly \$25 billion earmarked annually for military spending to support a massive increase in spending on green public infrastructure and green energy that could put many of the 350,000 workers who have lost their jobs in Toronto and across Canada back to work in good, healthy, decently paying jobs?*

## 2. US Iraq War Resisters

Dozens of US soldiers have come to Canada seeking refuge here because they refuse to participate in the illegal Iraq war, where the US has been implicated in crimes against humanity.

These soldiers are upholding the Nuremburg Principles established after World War II which place a moral burden on soldiers to refuse to carry out actions that are deemed illegal under international law.

The fourth principle states: “The fact that a person acted pursuant to order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.”

On June 3, 2008 a majority of elected Members of Parliament (MPs) voted in the House of Commons to let US Iraq War Resisters to stay in Canada.

Yet the Harper government is refusing to implement the motion, despite the fact that a majority of Canadians (over 2/3) also support giving sanctuary to US Iraq War Resisters.

*If elected, would you and your party commit to implementing the majority decision of the House of Commons, allow US Iraq War Resisters to stay in Canada and halt all deportation proceedings against them?*



## 3. Afghanistan War

Public opinion surveys show a majority of Canadians believe Canada’s participation in the US-led Afghan War has cost too much in the lives of Canadian soldiers and public money. This explains Mr. Harper’s announcement of a “fixed date” of 2011 to withdraw all Canadian soldiers.

*Given the fact that casualties for both Canadian soldiers and Afghan civilians have increased every year since Canada got involved in the US-led war and given the fact that all reasonable accounts suggest this trend will continue for the next three years, if elected will you and your party support our troops by immediately withdrawing them from Afghanistan?*

*Will you and your party commit to redirecting military spending to medical, psychological, pension and other benefits to Canadian veterans who served in Afghanistan and also to humanitarian aid to rebuild Afghanistan?*

## 4. Fixed Dates and Democracy

As Prime Minister, Stephen Harper has extended the deadline for withdrawing Canadian soldiers **twice**. Mr. Harper did not even abide by his own legislation for fixed federal election dates.

*If elected, will your party vote on principle or will it lie, abstain or fudge the truth if it is more expedient to do so? If your party formed the government would it implement or ignore democratic decisions adopted by a majority of MPs?*