The anti-war coalition Collectif Échec à la guerre is organizing a People’s Summit Against War and Militarism on November 19-21, 2010, and invites civil society organizations in Québec and concerned citizens to begin preparing for the Summit now.

In January 2008, the Manley Committee – a group of so-called experts chosen by Stephen Harper – recommended that the government pursue Canada’s participation in the war in Afghanistan in defiance of the wish of the majority of the population of Canada and without public hearings. Then, in March 2008, the Canadian Parliament again disregarded the will of the majority and voted to extend Canada’s military intervention until July 2011. By that time, the war in Afghanistan will have lasted for almost 10 years. And if the trend observed in the mainstream media continues, the war will have lasted ten years without any meaningful reporting on the reality of the war and its consequences (deaths, casualties, rapes, suffering and destruction) for the Afghan people.

It is high time for all of this to stop! It is high time for democracy to prevail, to put an end to Canadian participation in the war in Afghanistan and to undertake a genuine public debate on Canada’s foreign policy, the role of the Canadian army and the military budget.

The purpose of the Summit is to strengthen the movement against war and militarism in Québec by developing a more in-depth analysis, articulating clearer demands and consolidating unity in action. It is urgent to do so because the voices in favour of extending Canada’s military intervention in the region are starting to be heard.

In the coming weeks, the Collectif Échec à la guerre will publish four booklets as tools to help deconstruct the warmongers’ rhetoric and arguments. We encourage you to use these booklets within your organisations or groups to spark debates that will help to develop a common understanding in the period leading up to the People’s Summit Against War and Militarism.

Check our website in January 2010 for the location and programme of the Summit: www.echecalaguerre.org