Putting an End to War

As organizations committed to defending and advancing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights at home and abroad;

As citizens of Quebec concerned with social justice and peace, and committed to international relations based on cooperation, equality and solidarity;

1. WE ARE OUTRAGED
   - by Canada’s increasingly warmongering and antidemocratic policies
   - by Canada’s participation, since October 2001, in a war of occupation in Afghanistan, inflicting death and destruction on that country under the guise of exporting democracy, security and women’s rights, which is now extending into Pakistan,
   - by the House of Commons’ vote that prolonged this intervention until at least July 2011, against the will of the majority of people in Canada;
   - by the steadily increasing allocation of public funds to military purposes (at the rate, in Canada, of 58 million dollars a day in 2009 - 2010) to the detriment of social expenses and real development aid;
   - by Canada’s complicity in the torture both of Afghans captured in combat and of Canadian citizens imprisoned abroad;
   - by the creeping militarization of Canadian society, which tends to increase violence, especially violence against women;
   - by the use of a deliberately exaggerated threat of terrorism to justify war and erode our rights and freedoms through new measures of surveillance and repression;
   - by the all-pervasive public relations presence of Canadian military personnel at sporting, social and family events, and by their recruitment activities in educational institutions, including even primary schools;
   - by the increasingly severe socio-economic impacts of war and military exercises;
   - by the growing militarization of the Canadian Arctic, which aids and abets economic activity detrimental to the environment and to the rights of aboriginal peoples.

2. WE DENOUNCE THE CANADIAN WARMONGERS
   - successive governments of Canada, both Liberal and Conservative, who have mired us in this predicament, justifying war with spurious arguments;
   - big business — led by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives — which seeks only profit, and is especially attracted to war profiteering through military industry;
   - political parties whose policies promote militarism, or whose opposition to it is mere lip service;
   - mainstream media who all but ignore both the opposition to the war of the majority in Canada, and also the tragic effect of the war on civilians where it is waged;
3. WE CATEGORICALLY REJECT the rhetoric of the “war against terrorism”, and Canada’s direct or indirect military collusion with United States efforts to extend its hegemony over the entire planet, characterized by:

- a number of wars waged in violation of international law, including international humanitarian law: Kosovo in 1999, Afghanistan in 2001, Iraq in 2003, Lebanon in 2006, Gaza in 2009; and apprehended wars against Iran and North Korea, who have even been threatened with nuclear strikes;

- the diverting of the Security Council, which has not condemned these illegal aggressions, nor the war crimes they engender, nor the aggressors’ flagrant plans to seize control over foreign resources in violation of international law;

- the provocative eastward expansion of NATO, its transformation both into the military arm of widespread US hegemonic intervention, and into a quasi-agent of the UN, discrediting the latter in the eyes of the world;

- the threats and plans to destabilize certain countries who refuse to submit to the “New World Order” imposed by the United States;

- a renewed arms race, including the development of new nuclear weapons and the growing militarization of space;

4. WE URGE PEOPLE ACROSS QUEBEC to become involved in reversing this worldwide dynamic of death and destruction by calling on

the Government of Canada:

- to immediately withdraw Canadian troops from Afghanistan;

- to deeply cut military spending and to conduct a broad public debate on Canadian foreign policy, the role of Canadian Forces, military industry and the arms trade;

- to end military partnership with the United States, including withdrawal from NATO;

- to stop using women’s rights and the policy of “responsibility to protect” as pretexts for going to war, and to firmly condemn all interventions that do not comply with international law;

and on the international community:

- to renew the United Nations and make it more democratic by fully respecting its Charter, by strengthening the role of its General Assembly and by thoroughly reforming its Security Council, including the abolition of veto rights.

- to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 regarding the increased participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution, and in peace processes.