

Security Programs

2005–2006

The Polaris Institute is pleased to announce the launch of several new security programs for 2005–2006.

Major Programs

► CANADA'S DEFENCE POLICY

Canadians are proud of their soldiers, but our defence policy is being led away from traditional Canadian values and priorities. Military spending is rising sharply for expensive programs such as laser-guided bombs, attack submarines and secret commandos. The Canadian Forces are being transformed to be better integrated with U.S.–led military invasions abroad, while fewer resources and personnel are being devoted to UN peacekeeping missions.

Goal: Through research, analysis and communications, advocate for the establishment of a more independent defence policy and for the resources required to ensure Canadian territorial sovereignty and our increased participation in international peacekeeping through the United Nations.

► SPACE SECURITY

In 2004, Prime Minister Paul Martin spoke to the United Nations General Assembly. “In 1967, the United Nations agreed that weapons of mass destruction must not be based in space. The time has come to extend this ban to all weapons.” Yet the United States continues to pursue space weapons. Having declined to join the U.S. missile defence program, the Canadian government should now take the international lead to prevent the weaponization of space.

Goal: Building upon current research and international efforts, engage Members of Parliament, civil society and the public to promote Canadian government leadership on preventing the weaponization of space and preserving outer space as a global commons.

► NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

On the sixtieth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan, more than 26,000 nuclear bombs remain in the world. The great majority of nations are trapped between the nuclear weapons states that cling to their weapons and the states that pursue weapons of their own.

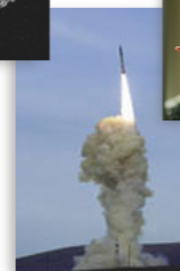
Goal: Serve as an effective secretariat for Abolition 2000 for the next two years, thereby strengthening the capacity of this international network of antinuclear nongovernmental organizations to advocate for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Special Projects

► U.S. SOLDIERS' SANCTUARY IN CANADA

The Pentagon admits that thousands of soldiers have deserted, likely because of the war in Iraq, including 2,723 in 2004 and another 1,432 so far this year from the U.S. Army alone. When reminded that Canada once opened its doors to U.S. draft dodgers and deserters, Prime Minister Martin said, “In terms of immigration, we are a country of immigrants and we will take immigrants from around the world. I'm not going to discriminate.”

Goal: Encourage the Canadian government to create a special immigration program that allows U.S. soldiers to immigrate to Canada.



▶ ARAR INQUIRY

The deportation and subsequent torture of Maher Arar may have been the result of intelligence-sharing agreements and other “smart border” accords with the United States, and of directives instituted by senior Canadian government officials after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Goal: Through public education and the Polaris Institute’s status as an intervener in the Arar Inquiry, raise concerns about and urge the commission to investigate the impact of Canada–U.S. intelligence sharing agreements and “smart border” accords on individuals’ personal security.

Engagement and Outreach Projects

▶ CEASEFIRE.CA

Since 2003, more than 25,000 Canadians have participated in on-line advocacy programs through Ceasefire.ca, a web site established by the Polaris Institute.

Goal: Educate and organize Canadians through the internet and provide them with tools to take political action and promote peace, disarmament and social justice.

▶ CANADIAN SECURITY FORUM

The public discourse on defence policy is disproportionately weighted toward pro-military conflict viewpoints over those advocating peace building and conflict resolution.

Goal: Establish an informal network of peace and security experts to improve co-operation, increase their capacity to influence journalists and Members of Parliament, and participate in the public debate on these issues.

Funding for the Polaris Institute’s Security Programs is provided by:

Arsenault Family Foundation • Canadian Auto Workers • Canadian Union of Postal Workers • Canadian Union of Public Employees • Global Resource Action Center for the Environment • Ploughshares Fund • Secure World Foundation • Simons Foundation (in partnership with Physicians for Global Survival) • Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation (in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives) • ...and nearly one thousand private donors.

About the Polaris Institute

The Polaris Institute produces research and develops strategic tools of analysis on key public policy issues from a public-interest perspective. Established in 1997, the Polaris Institute is headquartered in Ottawa. Its U.S. affiliate, Polaris Institute USA, was established in 2003 and is based in Mill Valley, California.

The Polaris Institute is a federally-registered nonprofit organization. Due to its public policy advocacy work, it is not a registered charity. Polaris Institute USA is a registered 501(c)3 organization.

Other Polaris Institute program areas include:

Bio-Justice • Continental Security • Corporate Profiles • Grassroots Global Governance • Water Rights

Director of Security Programs: Steven Staples

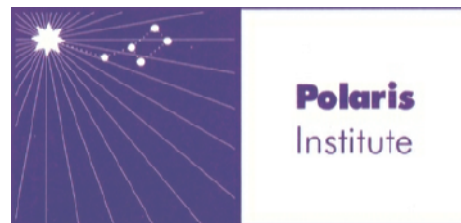
Executive Director of the Polaris Institute: Tony Clarke



Steven Staples, Director of Security Programs

Polaris Institute
Suite 500, 180 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1P5
Canada

613 237-1717
polaris@polarisinstitute.org
www.polarisinstitute.org



From top to bottom: Mel Hurtig, Alex McDonough MP, and Steven Staples outside Parliament; Ambassador Jonathan Dean (U.S., ret.) addresses Ottawa press corps as Steven Staples and Debbie Grisdale look on; A demonstrator on Parliament Hill during a missile defence protest; Tony Clarke appears on CBC TV's The National; 'Stars Against Star Wars' ad that appeared in newspapers across Canada