

May, 2022

Dear friends in Sweden and Finland,

Your governments have applied to join NATO, the world's most powerful military alliance, controlled by the world's #1 imperial power, the USA.

This comes as a shock and disappointment to many of you, I am sure, and to friends in other countries that admire your peace-making role in the world.

For other countries you have been an enviable model of social democracy; your citizens have many rights and benefits; security, equality, a decent standard of living, universal health, education and social services. Abroad your aid has been generous and supportive to the needy and marginalized seeking justice and decency. Your countries have been examples of humane, humanitarian and peaceful societies.

Canada is a member of NATO and, as a result of this alliance with the USA and NORAD, Canada has participated in many wars and war preparations with USA, making us vulnerable from attack by any enemy of the USA.

Pressure from NATO and the USA have resulted in our military that is growing daily, requiring more of our tax money than ever before and we have a lucrative and subsidized arms industry selling death around the world.

Canada's military, as those of most countries, is exempt from climate change regulations and calculations. Canada's public health care services are crumbling, the homeless live on our city streets. The infrastructure of schools, hospitals, social housing is underfunded and disintegrating. Canada spends very little on environmental concerns. The Canadian government is buying 88 fighter jets, but most indigenous communities do not have safe drinking water.

Your countries have excellent universal citizen care; when you join NATO you will be forced to spend far more than you do now on military forces and equipment. The money will have to come from somewhere: look around at what you have now. Membership in NATO will also mean that you will no longer be seen as peaceful countries; you will be vulnerable to attack from those that challenges the USA. By joining NATO, you will be forced to allow foreign military bases, personnel and exercises

in your territory. USA ships with nuclear weapons pass near my home at will. In other words, you will be less secure, not more secure from external forces.

In the world you will no longer be regarded and respected as examples of nations that care first and foremost about preserving democratic rights, and peaceful values while initiating urgently needed environmental action for all life in earth.

As a Canadian I am dismayed your governments have succumbed to pressures that will erode your societies and all that they stand for.

I urge you to take all action you can conceive and convince your governments to withdraw their plan to become militarized and dominated by external powers you did not elect.

Theresa Wolfwood, Victoria, BC, CANADA

*Images: sculpture in Sweden  
Finland flag & peace symbol*

