

The Future Party Platform

National Security

Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger -Daft Punk

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Goals

1. Increase military capabilities
2. Improve combat readiness and stockpile
3. Secure our most critical vulnerabilities
4. Increase domestic R&D in defense fields

Overview of the Problem

There is no denying that we have enjoyed an unprecedented era of global peace and stability for most of the past 30 years. The West did not face any real existential threats for that period of time. The end result came to be known as the "[peace dividend](#)". A mix of globalization and redirection of military spending allowed us to enjoy rapid improvements in quality of life and quality of public services.

The world however has changed in the time since. The rise of an assertive China, around the south China sea, and the increase in Russian aggression, as seen in Ukraine, are the most pressing and active challenges to today's rules-based order that the West has come to prize. At the same time, other countries see an opportunity for them to improve their position in the world in the midst of the tension.

We must also acknowledge that the West as well has played a role in the weakening of the rules-based order in the eyes of many in the rest of the world. We have unfortunately settled for a belief that our systems of liberal capitalist democracy are [the end of history](#), and as such the final stage of societal development. We're aware Francis Fukuyama, the founder of the theory, has changed his stance since, but in our view it appears our governments at large have held on to that view, at least partly, and as a result a culture of strategic complacency took hold.

We cannot change the past, so the next best thing is to **change the present**. Our goal is to strengthen our military into becoming a deterring force that meets the commitments we made to our allies. Unfortunately we now live in a world where having a deterring force is necessary to ensure mutual respect between nations. Because even though everyone loses a lot in a war, **the biggest losers are always the ones who take peace for granted.**

A Changing, More Dangerous, World

So what changed in the past 30 years?

In our view the following are the biggest changes. In a different timeline, the world could have adapted to each of them separately without much issue, but in our timeline, they are all happening together.

1. The Relative Stagnation of the West

Relative here is a very important distinction. While there are differences between Western countries, the observed stagnation or decline many comment on in the west has been a result of rising competition from non-western countries more than anything else because of the following:

1. **Diminishing returns of development** - The Western world has enjoyed a high level of development for decades and became its definition in the process. This by necessity means that there aren't any countries we can look to for guidance as a benchmark. The most we can do is identify what we each do better and learn from each other. This process is slow and gradual, and naturally involves running into unforeseen setbacks. Developing nations however can look at the past successes of the West and implement the most effective solutions allowing them to catch up quickly. This is most visible in China's slowing growth as it approaches western levels of development
2. **Underfunding of our militaries** - Following the peace dividend idea, most western countries with the exception of the US have allowed their militaries to shrink and fall into disrepair. As a result many domestically and abroad started to view those countries as weak even though they were still capable of developing cutting edge military technology
3. **Increased global competition** - China comes to mind immediately and is its own factor but they are only the most prominent example. Countries like Russia are looking to assert their will, while others India are quickly catching up and hold their own ambitions. At the same time many countries in south east Asia are

rapidly developing and searching for their own place in the world like Vietnam and Thailand. The end result is that both politically and economically there are much much more people competing and learning from each other. The end result is that the West represents a smaller share of the growing pie and that adds to the perception of decline.

4. **Limits of power projection** - In light of the points above, what used to be sufficient to "police" the whole world is now stretched thin across the globe. As such the USA alone can no longer fill the role they had after the fall of the USSR and must instead prioritize it's interests. This reduction in presence adds to the perception of decline.

2. The Rise of China

The meteoric rise of China's wealth and influence under a different political system that is antagonistic to Western ideals has had the biggest impact on the global system in our view. There are many doubts about the official numbers published by China but the facts on the ground do indicate that they have become a real rival to the top spot. Here's a snapshot of what we mean:

1. **Their increasing boldness in the South China sea and around Taiwan**
2. **They hold an integral part in the global economy** - most of the world has China as their top trading partner
3. **Their increasing competitiveness in advanced fields** - most notable in EVs, software, and surveillance tech
4. **They have become an important creditor** - an increasing number of developing nations take loans from China through the belt and road initiative

3. Loss of Faith in the Existing System

This is most visible in third world countries that are not aligned with either the West or China. Signs of that are:

1. **Countries are hedging their bets:** Like the gulf Arab countries are trying to balance their alignment between the West, China, and Russia
2. **Attempts to build parallel systems:** Like the talks between BRICS countries to establish an alternative to the dollar

3. **Russia ignoring diplomacy:** In it's invasion of Ukraine

In our view the main reasons for this loss of faith are:

1. **The above two big points** - A stronger China and a perceived weaker West
2. **Increasing focus by the West on cultural issues vs material development** - summarized by observers as the West giving lectures vs China building hospitals
3. **Western countries themselves ignoring/circumventing the rules based system** - Yet what we believe was the West's biggest mistake is that we circumvented the rules to advance our interests and ideologies. There are many examples of this, some of the most relevant are:

- **The Invasion of Iraq:** In our view it was the breaking point for much of the rest of the world's trust in the global order because the list of issues is unfortunately long:
 - Unlike in Korea, the invasion ignored the UN and was done unilaterally by the West and Western allied countries. Canada earns my respect for not supporting it
 - Unlike in Vietnam, the invasion did not aim to protect a friendly government, and was not supported by a meaningful portion of the population
 - Unlike Afghanistan, there were no clear direct links between Iraq and the 9/11 attacks
 - Dubious intelligence was used to justify the war globally, and later proven false
 - The multiple scandals involving war crimes committed by the coalitions' forces
 - The language used domestically to justify the invasion sounded to the rest of the world as an ideological declaration of war
 - The Iraqi people were left objectively worse off under the rule of a failed state and the terror of multiple extremist groups
- **The intervention in Libya:** NATO aimed to topple Gaddafi's regime through a no-fly zone and a series of air strikes arguing that it was necessary to end tyranny. The end result however was similar to Iraq

4. Climate Change

The changing climate has already had a big impact on geopolitics, and will continue to add pressures on governments to act, which increases the likelihood of conflicts breaking out. The following are realities that nations far and wide are accounting for:

1. **The melting Arctic** - Enough of the Arctic has melted that an arctic trade route is quickly becoming a viable option. This holds both economic opportunity and strategic risk
2. **More frequent droughts** - We can see that close to home in the US, or further abroad in China, Africa, and Europe. Food insecurity is a big driver of conflict.
3. **Unpredictable weather patterns** - Here in Canada, we've been having more turbulent weather, seasons are shifting. This strains our emergency response forces but in countries that are hit harder and lack such capacities it could lead to instability.

The Solution

Broadly speaking, these are our commitments to ensure Canada's security in light of the world's changing circumstances:

1. Strengthen our capabilities

A strong, competent military and a robust security framework are the bedrock of any nation's security. The brief summary is that we need to increase the size, quality, and readiness of our armed forces. To achieve that we will:

- a. Spend 2.5% ~ 3% of GDP on military asap
- b. Bring our hardware and combat readiness up to operational standards
- c. Increase recruitment and hardware numbers
- d. Build up an ammunition stockpile
- e. Increase investment into defense R&D
- f. Prioritize the navy

2. Honouring alliance commitments

Given Canada's small demography and the scale of the global challenges we face, we must work with like minded allies. As such we must join a network of alliances that can ensure our security across all spaces. The most important of these are:

- a. **NATO** - For atlantic security
- b. **NORAD** - For airspace security
- c. **Establish/Join a Pacific security framework with friendly nations** - QUAD(?)
- d. **Five Eyes** - For intelligence
- e. Strengthen North American security by increasing military cooperation and coordination with the USA

3. Anticipate potential vulnerabilities

Proactively work to counter threats. Our most important areas to secure are:

- a. Arctic Ocean
- b. Cyber security
- c. ICBMs
- d. Election Interference

4. Promote the rules-based system

Realign our global actions and positions to further trust in diplomacy:

- a. Avoid interventionism in foreign countries that don't request our help
- b. Invest into developing nations' infrastructure instead of lecturing them

The Case for Our Approach

To survive in a jungle

We are heading towards a more uncertain and dangerous global environment that is akin to a jungle. And much like a jungle, countries will need to find a niche that suits them. Canada has to pay attention to the great powers' balance and play an active role globally for two main reasons:

1. Our only land border is with the USA, the world's only superpower for the past 30 years, and the country who stands to lose the most from the upheavals of this new age
2. Canada covers a large amount of land, we're only 2nd to Russia after all. Combined with our wealth of natural resources, this means we hold significant strategic value

In light of this, passivity is a dangerous game that we cannot afford to play anymore. Canada must play an active role in ensuring its own security instead of exclusively relying on our neighbours and allies.

So what would Canada's niche be in this jungle of global politics?

Canada does not have the luxury of being a superpower, so we can't reshape the world order singlehandedly. Our focus instead should be to become a major player within a larger security architecture that protects and promotes our values. This would include maintaining sufficient self-defense capabilities to survive on our own if needed, and it is that that drives our desire to increase our military's funding and capabilities.

As much as we would love a different reality where we can put militaries aside and focus on peaceful means, we cannot in good faith advocate for maintaining our status quo. It is the desire to be prepared for the worst case scenario while advocating for peace that forms the heart of our push to rapidly expand our armed forces.

We must become the protectors of peace not its children.

A rules-based system is worth protecting

We must first clarify the system's role in today's world. It is tempting to believe that **the UN and other big international organizations are useless and powerless. That is true, to a certain extent**, by design. They do, however, serve a different purpose.

The UN and the like were never meant to be able to impose anything themselves. No country would find that acceptable. Rather, **the primary goal of such organizations is to promote** a certain set of rules of conduct and to provide avenues for diplomacy and information sharing between nations. The belief is that **diplomacy, whether legitimate or coerced**, will always be a **better alternative to war**. The future party agrees with that statement.

We believe that there is no glory in war. War destroys so much for so little and brings out the worst in humanity along the way. The lives lost, the cities destroyed, and the hijacked economies leave lasting damage on all involved sides. As such, wars must only be fought as a last resort, and even then only wars fought to defend a nation and/or its allies are worth praising in our view. It is that belief that drives our desire to protect and **promote the rules-based order because it promotes diplomacy over war**.

To do so, the powerful have to accept the restrictions of the rules, uphold them, and deter rivals from trying to break them. For most of the past few decades, the USA was able to do all of the above without meaningfully relying on anybody else. With a little coordination with rivals, this ensured that countries far and wide stuck to the rules-based system which led to an era of significant global peace and stability.

Today things have changed though. Since the fall of the USSR, the western world has grown complacent and started to neglect the pragmatic side of what was built after world war 2, our militaries grew weak, and we started to break our own rules as mentioned above.

Unfortunately, the past cannot be changed, only the present can be. It is thus our duty to **first acknowledge our mistakes, then from there work towards building a better world**. A world in which rivals can count on diplomacy to achieve their goals over relying on violent means.

Canada has an important role to play by virtue of being a wealthy western nation. We may not have the power to deter rivals alone but by becoming a major player in friendly alliances, we can uphold our values and global civility.

Summary

Canada, and much of the world, benefits from the existence of a rules-based system that is respected by all major powers. The changing global political landscape however has made the world a more competitive and dangerous place. This means we can no longer rely on the US alone to maintain our security, and as such we must rapidly and ambitiously improve our military capabilities.

Specifics

The above will be achieved through these policies:

1. Stronger Capabilities
 - a. Funding goal of 2.5%~3% of GDP asap
 - b. Hardware maintenance
 - i. Ensure all our military equipment is operational
 - ii. Build up a stockpile of spare parts
 - c. Combat readiness
 - i. Create protocols that account for potential issues. E.g. weather
 - ii. Regular training exercises
 - iii. Air force should be able to intercept targets within 15~30 mins
 - d. Increase military size
 - i. Double personnel asap
 - ii. Proportionally increase military hardware across all branches
 - iii. Build up ammunition stockpile that can last up to 2~3 months of intense combat
 - e. Build up industrial base for
 - i. Navy
 - ii. Air force
 - iii. ICBMs and their counters
 - iv. Ammunition and Rations
 - f. Invest into R&D
 - i. Cyber warfare
 - ii. Arctic warfare
 - iii. Drones
 - iv. Detection and Interception
2. Honouring alliance commitments
 - a. NATO
 - i. Meet spending target
 - b. NORAD

- i. Meet readiness standard
 - ii. Acquire counterstrike capabilities
 - iii. Join other missile defense frameworks with the US
 - c. Pacific:
 - i. Enter QUAD?
 - ii. Other options
 - d. Five Eyes:
 - i. Improve cyber security
 - ii. Clamp down on foreign interference
- 3. Anticipate Vulnerabilities
 - a. Arctic Ocean
 - i. Increase military presence through additional bases and personnel
 - ii. Increase arctic patrolling
 - iii. Improve and expand detection and monitoring coverage
 - b. Cyber security
 - i. Improve security infrastructure
 - ii. Invest into developing and countering potentially disruptive technologies
 - 1. AI
 - 2. Quantum Computing
 - iii. Build resiliency against communication disruption
 - iv. Counter bot use by malicious actors
 - c. Airspace
 - i. Improve detection and Interception capabilities of low and high tech devices
 - 1. ICBMs, especially Hypersonic Missiles
 - 2. Balloons....
 - 3. Drones
 - ii. Acquire robust counterstrike capabilities
 - d. Election interference
 - i. Clamp down on suspicious donations
 - ii. Improve intelligence services' protection of MPs and their families
 - iii. Prioritize addressing any threats made to MPs

- iv. Streamline reporting of threats to the federal government and concerned politicians
- 4. Promote rules-based system
 - a. Maintain the policy of non-interventionism into nations that don't ask for help
 - b. Support Ukraine
 - i. Promote our peace plan
 - ii. Support Ukraine against the invasion into it's territory
 - c. Third world aid
 - i. Base on developmental need, not social stances
 - ii. Countries that align with our values can be given control of implementation
 - iii. Countries that don't would be expected to allow Canada to manage implementation directly
 - d. Respect cultural sovereignty of other countries
 - i. Recognize that others may hold different values than us
 - ii. Recognize that lecturing them about that in visits is pointless
 - 1. E.g. the Italy thing..
 - iii. We should promote our values by protecting them domestically and letting it be known that Canada thrives with them

Contingencies

None yet