

# Huron-Bruce Defence Review Roundtable Feedback

Submitted by the Office of Ben Lobb  
Member of Parliament  
Huron-Bruce

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## Scope of Participation

The Office of Ben Lobb, Member of Parliament for Huron-Bruce, utilized numerous tools and resources to engage constituents and stakeholders in these crucial conversations about the Canadian Armed Forces.

Four community roundtable discussions were held in different communities throughout Huron-Bruce on July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The roundtables took place at the following dates and times:

- Wingham Legion, 10 am, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Kincardine Legion, 7pm, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Exeter Legion, 10am, July 7<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Goderich Legion, 7pm, July 7<sup>th</sup> 2016

At each of the roundtables, various members of the community participated in the discussions to give their input on Canadian Defence policies. Participants in the discussions were primarily individuals who had previously served in the Canadian Armed Forces in various capacities or who had a loved one who currently or previously served. Overall, everyone who attended the roundtables, regardless of their background, all positively contributed to the discussion.

Constituents were invited to participate in the discussions by the distribution of four 10%er flyers, targeting the communities of Exeter, Goderich, Kincardine and Wingham. Approximately 16,000, 10%ers were delivered to homes in Huron-Bruce. The roundtables were also advertised in local newspapers and online through various social media platforms. Written feedback was also encouraged through the 10%er flyers and at the roundtables.

The Huron-Bruce Defence Reviews were hosted by MP Ben Lobb with the assistance of a private citizen with previous experience in the Canadian Armed Forces. The roundtables were an open discussion based on the Key Consultation Questions provided by the National Defence Public Consultation Document. Enclosed are the opinions and thoughts of Huron-Bruce residents on each question. As the following summary is not exhaustive, residents were encouraged to submit their own submissions online or in writing directly to the Department of National Defence.

## Key Consultation Questions

### **1. Are there any threats to Canada's security that are not being addressed adequately?**

#### **Huron-Bruce Response:**

Residents expressed varying concerns and views regarding threats not currently being adequately addressed by the Canadian Government. The concerns ranged from a lack of information on current threats and Canadian capabilities, to a distrust of the effectiveness of NORAD and NATO. Residents also touched on concerns of homegrown extremism and the possibility of a terrorist attack in Canada.

The defence of Canada's northern most borders was a topic of concern at each roundtable discussion and was also touched on in many of the written submissions. It is the firm belief that our northern borders are unprotected and as a result, Canada needs to do more to secure our sovereignty over the lands and waters of any targeted area. Threats to our sovereignty by other nations should not be taken lightly and our military needs a large and effective presence in the Arctic. Suggestions for improvement in this area included further invest in the Rangers program, investment in icebreakers and nuclear submarines, and a long-term strategy for a strong and continued Arctic presence.

The size and capability of the current Canadian Armed Forces is a source of concern for many residents of Huron-Bruce. Often a resident would ask "would our military be able to defend us in the event of an attack?" The unfortunate consensus on the matter was that no, the CAF would not have the capacity to defend all of Canada's landmass. Lone wolf style attacks that are becoming ever more present in modern society are an extreme concern due a lack of awareness and the possibility of the individual slipping through our defence capabilities. Communication with our allies and within the departments within the Government of Canada are essential to providing our security forces with up-to-date and accurate information to ensure our safety.

Access to information was also concern that was brought up on numerous occasions throughout the discussions. Some residents felt they were not sufficiently knowledgeable on what was considered a possible threat to Canadian security and did not feel they could adequately provide an answer.

Residents of Huron-Bruce considered themselves blessed to live in a nation where the civilian population will not experience the impact of war first hand. However this should not play into the allusion that we are always safe. Canada needs to make the proper investments to ensure our safety at home and abroad.

## **2. What roles should the Canadian Armed Forces play domestically, including in support of civilian authorities?**

### **Huron-Bruce Response:**

Residents of Huron-Bruce were fairly confident in the role that the Canadian Armed Forces play within Canada. Kincardine is home to an excellent Search and Rescue auxiliary, an essential service for our lakefront communities.

“The world moves on volunteers” - Roundtable Participant

Search and Rescue efforts should be expanded on further, for example expanding Search and Rescue capabilities to more lakeside ports and a closer base with air support, should it be necessary. Currently, Kincardine, Goderich and other areas along the coast of Lake Huron receives air support from CFB Borden.

When the CAF are needed to support domestic operations, the Armed Forces should not be caught in short of personnel. Participants noted that the Canadian Military is small, and in events such as the forest fires in Fort McMurray, the smaller numbers of the reserve personnel become abundantly clear.

While generally content with the Canadian Armed Forces role domestically, some residents agreed having a larger CAF presence within urban and rural areas would create positive public relation opportunities, allowing civilians to become more comfortable with our military presence. For example, the residents of Huron-Bruce are rarely exposed to the CAF and the role they can play domestically. If the CAF were to have increased visibility, Canadians would gain a better understanding of the role they play and be more supportive of CAF expenses.

An expanded CAF presence and a larger reserve force will require larger funding by the Canadian Government.

## **3. How should Canada-United States cooperation on defence of North America evolve in coming years?**

### **Huron-Bruce response:**

The conversations that transpired around the Canada-United States cooperation were long, well-constructed and concerned with a distrust of the United States true intentions for Canada. The most common thought was that the Canadian military acts as a little brother to the United States, and as a nation, we often leave the defence of Canada to our neighbours. This is concerning because in the event of an attack on North America, the safety of the United States would be their first priority. In addition, the United States does have a stake in the Arctic region and Canada's claim to Arctic should not be taken for granted.

Concerns were also voiced for how the role of the United States military's will change following the upcoming Presidential Election this fall. The U.S. was established as a pole after the Second World War, however as the world becomes increasingly multipolar, some residents expressed desire for Canada to seek our other critical allies:

“...Americans could lead us to great grief” – Roundtable Participant

Concerns aside, Canada and the United States are tied together through history, economics, and the defence of North America. Opportunities are present for strategic procurement, information sharing, and the training of personnel. Canada needs to mature its military relationship with the United States and assume a greater role, leaving the defence of Canada to Canada.

#### **4. What form should the CAF contribution to peace support operations take? Is there a role for the CAF in helping to prevent conflict before it occurs?**

##### **Huron-Bruce Response:**

Peacekeeping plays a huge role in how Canadians view themselves and how the world views Canadians. When discussing our nation's role as the peacekeeper, residents of Huron-Bruce discussed the evolution of peacekeeping, its effectiveness and its role in the modern world.

With the ever growing threat of war with non-state actors, who do not follow internationally recognized laws of war, is peacekeeping practical? Divided, residents asked, “when have peace keeping missions been successful?” and “do we provide our soldiers enough support on these missions?” Overall, residents were sceptical of the success of United Nations peacekeeping missions and were hesitant to expand Canada's role in this capacity. Peacekeeping is not as simple as standing between enemies; it involves state building, diplomacy and infrastructure. Residents looked to Canadian development agencies to help other nations rebuild and prosper in these areas.

Residents also looked to expand Canada's role in NATO and NORAD and embrace a ‘peace maker’ or ‘peace builder’ role rather than remaining stuck on the illusion of peacekeeping. The CAF is not a large force and providing more support to NORAD, NATO or to UN Peacekeeping mission will be more of a burden on our already exhausted troops. Expansion of any role will require more troops, support for those troops, and the necessary equipment to provide the support they require. A barrier to these crucial investments in the CAF is the firm belief of Canadian's that our military is purely for peacekeeping and that our role as peacekeepers will keep us safe.

It is undeniable the legacy and impact of peacekeeping missions, however when making crucial decisions regarding the future of the CAF, one must separate myth from reality.

**5. Should the size, structure and composition for the Canadian Armed Forces change from what they are today?**

**Huron-Bruce Response:**

Overall participants in the Huron-Bruce Defence Policy Review Roundtables hoped to see a larger, better-equipped Canadian Armed Forces and Reserve force.

Both our CAF members and our reserves need to be fairly compensated during their service and during their pension aged years, as they are vital to Canada's defence and therefore should be compensated accordingly. In addition to fair compensation, crucial investments need to be made to make sure the CAF has all of the equipment necessary to do their jobs. Parents of a CAF member commented on this necessity and shared their son's story and his experience in Afghanistan. While travelling throughout Afghanistan, he only travelled on a Canadian helicopter once and his transportation was primarily through our American or Australian allies. It was not a comforting feeling to know their son was being dropped off by an ally and as a result, would not be the first priority in the event of an emergency.

Suggestions for improvements included investments in technology, in particular for a smaller force with a higher technological capacity that would allow for the greater defence of Canada, without dramatically increasing numbers.

Many concerns for the Reserve force were voiced throughout the consultation process, in particular a need for a larger Canadian reserve force. Many of our reserve forces have seen active duty despite only having approximately 13,000 Canadian reserves to this day. Streamlining the recruitment process and encouraging younger people to become reserves for civic duty and for educational and travelling opportunities will increase numbers of participants. A large public awareness campaign and a focus on recruitment will benefit not only the reserves but the general Canadian Armed Forces.

The general theme of the discussions was encouraging larger investment to increase CAF numbers and equipment.

**6. How can DND and the CAF improve the way they support the health and wellness of military members? In what areas should more be done?**

**Huron-Bruce Response:**

Residents of Huron-Bruce showed great empathy and concern for the wellbeing of Canadian Armed Forces members. Primarily the feedback given for post-care for veterans in the riding of Huron-Bruce was positive. However there a few gaps identified as areas on improvement:

- On base care for CAF members
- Lack of Standardization for Health Benefits

- **Mentality of Service Members**

A few participants shared their personal stories, in particular, their struggle to receive referrals for medical attention to off-base doctors. From the experiences shared, the amount of time between the initial injuries and when they finally saw a specialist resulted in surgery to rectify the situation. Denying referrals is not a CAF policy however the lengthy time frame for CAF members to see a specialist can be an arduous process. Streamlining the referral process and ensuring those injured do know the referral process will alleviate some of these concerns and more intrusive operations later on.

A Veteran shared his experience of being denied hearing aids for an injury sustained in Korea, despite another Veteran who suffered damaged hearing in the same incident being approved compensation for hearing aids. The bureaucratic process limits linking events and injuries, causing incidents such as the one this veteran experienced to occur continuously. Fighting for compensation should not be a normative process, and the residents of Huron-Bruce applaud the excellent service provided to Veterans by our local Legions.

Finally, a mindset change is needed within the Canadian Armed Forces. The notion that CAF members need to ‘toughen up’ or ‘be a man’, do not contribute to the health and wellness of CAF members. Mental health should be made a top priority from recruitment onwards; with check ins throughout a members service so they don’t have to ask for help if they need it. Mental health is a Canada wide issue, one that needs to be tackled within the CAF and civilian society. Within the CAF a proactive mental strategy and check-in process needs to be established for both regular and reserve CAF members, during each phase of military service. The changes need

Great strides have been made to ensure Veterans and CAF members transitioning to civilian life receive the supports they deserve more still can be done. Clear expectations of health and wellness need to be set and met continuously:

“We need to adopt a life cycle management – just like a boat – till their last breath; we need to give them all the resources we can.” – Roundtable Participant

## **7. Should Canada strive to maintain military capability across the full spectrum of operations? Are there specific niche areas of capability in which Canada should specialize?**

### **Huron-Bruce Response:**

The feedback from Huron-Bruce residents was divided on this question, purely based off of a desire not to be dependent on our allies and a request to specialize in warfare specific to Canadian geography.

The Canadian landscape is different than many of our allies with a greater amount of water, mountains, and a large Atlantic boarder. Some residents argued that our military

should specialize in water and arctic warfare to prioritize the safety of our Canadian boarders. Recommended investments could be made within Canada to create ‘Centres of Excellence’ to couple Canadian industry leaders with the CAF to ensure Canada leads in specific procurement sectors, while supporting local jobs and Canadian businesses.

‘If we are going to compromise, let’s have a thoughtful discussion about their niches’ –  
Roundtable Participant

In this case, the opposing argument was concerned that refraining from maintaining the full spectrum military capacity would diminish Canada’s role on a global capacity. The CAF already relies heavily on our allies for logistics support and further cuts would further reduce the role that Canada has in terms of allied defence participation and in strategic alliances. Further cuts to the CAF budget or involvement capabilities would result in a less aggressive role for Canada globally.

**8. What investments should Canada make in space, cyber, and unmanned systems? To what extent should Canada strive to keep pace and be interoperable with key Allies in these domains?**

**Huron-Bruce Response:**

Huron-Bruce residents and roundtable participants held a firm belief that in order to maintain a seat at the discussion table with our allies; investment must be made in order to maintain interoperable capabilities.

Some interesting discussions points included considerations not only regarding military investments but also to include public and private investments to protect Canada’s economic and telecommunications sectors from cyber-attacks. Creating centres of excellence and working in partnership with technological industry leaders would allow Canada to develop as a global leader in this ever growing high-demand market. It would once again tie military investments to Canadian industries and jobs.

However, it should be noted that Huron-Bruce residents expressed concern for unmanned systems as replacements for CAF members. New technologies should work in partnership with the CAF and never diminish their role.

**9. What additional measures could the DND undertake, along with partner departments, to improve procurement?**

**Huron-Bruce Response:**

Discussions surrounding Canada’s current procurement process involved numerous comments of displeasure and irritation. Residents voiced concerns regarding a lack of cohesive procurement policy, cancellations of previous procurement contracts, and a shortage of procurement regarding essential equipment for our troops. The general

consensus was that our troop's safety and capabilities should not be used to sway voters as a political bargaining chip each time we enter a new election period.

Australia's procurement process was pointed out as an example that Canadian military procurement should consider following. The Australian procurement process stands apart from the political realm by continually adding necessary equipment when needed. Their procurement process and cancellations to previous procurement strategies do not change when a new government comes to power. Canada should look to other countries procurement policies to help shape and modernize ours as we move forward.

Suggestions to improve the Canadian Armed Forces procurement process included:

- Letting the Department of National Defence decide the procurement strategy themselves and have an oversight committee review and approve purchases
- Requiring that politicians and public servants trust the CAF to identify and know their needs
- Despite being considered a necessary bureaucratic process, the procurement process should be modernized to be more effective and efficient
- Match procurement with industry niches and job availability in Canada (For example creating an effective ship building yard needs continued long term support, creating jobs, Canadian Industry and CAF procurement needs), however if it is more affordable and convenient to purchase off the shelf from an Allies to trust the CAF to make that call
- The one-size-fits-all process for procurement is inefficient and ineffective (for example the continued changes to the requirements for the F-35 Fighter Jets)
- Thoughts on the F-35 fighter Jet procurement processes range from unnecessary to essential

Canada has a long history of procurement issues ranging from the Ross rifle to the current F-35 Fighter jet contracts. The residents of Huron-Bruce hope to see a de-politicization of the procurement process, placing the needs our troops and national security above political agendas.

## **10. What resources will the CAF require to meet Canada's defence needs?**

### **Huron-Bruce Response:**

Overall, residents of Huron-Bruce agreed the Canadian Armed Forces should be given all of the resources necessary to perform their duties efficiently both at home and abroad.

### **Summary:**

The residents of Huron-Bruce were passionate about the role of the Canadian Armed Forces both domestically and abroad. They hope to see a strong, united, and well equipped military with the support of the Canadian public.

Their key areas of concern were the involvement of politics in the procurement process, the defence of Canada's Arctic Sovereignty, the numbers of reserves and CAF members, and an overall all desire to see more critical investments into the Canadian Armed Forces.

Written Submissions:

Postal Code	Comments
	CANADA OUT OF NATO
N7A 1P4	We should support our vets in every way.
N2Z 2N1	Much bigger issues than military spending. In fact I'd be much happier of budget cut 80%. Get rid of the ponkers in the Senate. I'm fed up of being over taxed and over managed in this country. For too much government wastage on the tax payers nickel. Reduce spending. Reduces taxes. Simple equation.
N2Z 0B9	I am happy <a href="http://geoengineeringwatch.org">geoengineeringwatch.org</a> is filing a lawsuit against Canada to stop chemtrails. I am proud to be Canadian and to protect its citizens with our defence resources. We must stop the chemtrails every day here in Kinloss over our heads. In solidarity.
N0M 1S1	I will leave it up to the Government.
N7A 3B7	I believe the military should be to defend Canada first. Particularly the arctic and against terrorism at home and abroad. Buy F-35 jets, new Navy ships; replace the snowbird aircraft with BAE hawks. UN peacekeeping has had mediocre results in the last 50 years and is not a priority for me.
N7A 4C1	Defence Canada's North with mighty strength. Canadians were more respected globally as ``Peacekeepers``. Get out of the middle east in current capacity. Canada's role in the world -Humanitarian - Peacekeepers. Look ater our military in their retirement, 15-20 thousand veterans don't deserve to be homeless. We owe them big time.
N0G 2W0	IT IS HARD TO HAVE INTELLIGENT DISCUSSION ON POLICY MATTERS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, WHEN OUR MEDIA NO LONGER THOROUGHLY REPORTS WORLD EVENTS.

THANK HEAVEN FOR THE ADVENT OF THE INTERNET.

THE WORLD IS NOW MOVING FROM A UNI-POLAR TO A MULTI-POLAR MODEL. THIS APPLIES FIRST AND FOREMOST IN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE, WHERE FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, HAVING BEEN INCOMPETENTLY LED BY ITS LEADERS IN WASHINGTON, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LIVED VASTLY BEYOND THEIR MEANS.

THE ABSURDITY OF THE US ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAS SEEN THAT NATION NOW REDUCED TO SOLVING THEIR MASSIVE CURRENT ACCOUNT AND BUDGET DEFICITS WITH EQUALLY MASSIVE USE OF THE MONETARY PRINTING PRESS.

THIS IS NOT SUSTAINABLE.

WE ALL HAVE TO LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS.

THEREFORE, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A SHIFT FROM UNI-POLAR TO MULTI-POLAR, THIS NATION NEEDS TO REASSESS WHERE ITS BEST INTERESTS LIE, BOTH

- A. IN ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND TRADE, AND
- B. IN SECURITY.

THIS NATION NEEDS TO RECOGNIZE THAT BOTH ECONOMIC POLICY AND DEFENSE POLICY AS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTED INSIDE THE WASHINGTON BELTWAY ---  
--- ARE NO LONGER AFFORDABLE, AND THEREFORE INEVITABLY WILL HAVE TO CHANGE.

WASHINGTON WILL BE OBLIGED TO ADAPT ITSELF TO A MULTI-POLAR WORLD.

THE COMPLEXION OF THAT MULTI-POLAR WORLD IS NOT AS YET ENTIRELY CLEAR. WHETHER IT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF 4 OR 5 OR MORE POLES WHICH EVENTUALLY EMERGE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

BUT THIS PICTURE CAN BE PREDICTABLY SHAPED THROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE GEOGRAPHY AND THE RELATIVE SIZES OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIES.

CANADA IS NO LONGER THE MARGINAL PLAYER ON THE WORLD STAGE THAT IT WAS IN 1950.

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AND YET IN FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY, IT WOULD SEEM THAT NOT MUCH HAS

	<p>CHANGED SINCE THEN.</p> <p>AS THOUGH BY REFLEX, AND AS THOUGH WE WERE AFFLICTED BY A PERMANENT INFERIORITY COMPLEX, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO ACT LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER TO THE UK AND THE US.</p> <p>THIS HAS NOT BEEN A PRODUCTIVE POLICY FOR CANADA SINCE AT LEAST 1990 AND THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOVIET UNION.</p> <p>IN SUMMARY,</p> <p>IN REASSESSING OUR FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICIES, WE NEED TO DEVOTE OUR ENERGIES AND RESOURCES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES AND POLICY WHICH REFLECT OUR NATIONAL INTEREST IN LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WASHINGTON IS NO LONGER THE WORLD'S HEGEMON IN A UNI-POLAR WORLD.</li> <li>2. EUROPE, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA MAY EMERGE AS REPRESENTING SINGLE POLES, OR ALTERNATIVELY, MAY EMERGE WITH AS MANY AS THREE POLES EACH.</li> </ol> <p>THUS THERE ARE MANY PERMUTATIONS AND COMBINATIONS WHICH NEED TO BE SORTED OUT.</p> <p>THE OBJECTIVE OF PUBLIC DEBATE SHOULD BE TO FOCUS ON AND CLARIFY WHERE THE CANADIAN INTEREST LIES IN ALL OF THESE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS.</p>
N2Z 3B6	<p>I believe the 3 basic premises of our defence policy of the last 50 years still hold true: Defence of Canada, mutual North American defence, NATO/Foreign and Canadian domestic needs. We must increase our defence spending to the 2% spending threshold while focusing on equipment and capacity needs which are flexible to meet mutual and Canadian needs. Transport helicopters, our own air support for Canadian troops.</p>
NOM 1L0	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. De- politicalize the military</li> <li>2. Address Canada's financial priorities</li> <li>3. Address Canadians understanding of our military commitments</li> </ol>
NOM 1S6	<p>Promoting the Value of Reservists package from the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces Liaison Council</p>

<p>N0G 2W0</p>	<p>If internet spending numbers are correct NATO's spending is not the only problem with the alliance?</p> <hr/> <p>NATO Military Spending: Total of \$800 billion +</p> <p>United States \$597.5 billion, Canada \$20.3 billion, France \$46.8 billion, Italy \$21.5 billion, United Kingdom \$56.2 billion. Germany \$36.6 billion, Spain \$10.7 billion, Poland \$10.3 billion = total of \$800 billion</p> <p>PLUS unknown budgets of Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Albania, and Croatia</p> <hr/> <p>AXIS of EVIL</p> <p>Military Spending: total of \$103 to \$281 billion estimates</p> <p>China \$1445.8 to 215 billion est., Russia \$42.8 to \$66.4 billion = Total of \$103 to \$281 billion estimate</p> <p>How much of this money is world policing for corporate interests? Why are corporations not at least paying their listed corporate taxes rates? IE Canada banks set income tax rate is 26% - they actually pay approximately 16%</p> <p>Military policing i.e: Mali Mines &amp; Somali coast</p>
<p>N2Z 3B6</p>	<p>Given the amount of political instability around the world and that this situation is not likely to improve in the foreseeable future, I feel Canada needs to realistically assess how it can fulfil its NATO commitment with the type of training and troops we currently have, establish priorities, develop a long-term plan and initiate the process with benchmarks set to confirm goals are being met in a timely and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>The government needs to ensure that our troops, whatever their role, have proper training, gear and equipment needed to fulfil their mandate.</p> <p>While public consultation is important, the government should not allow the process to unreasonably delay action. The process needs to be informed by military experts, not lobbyists or groups with financial interest.</p> <p>The safety and effectiveness of our soldiers should be the guiding principle.</p> <p>If we are going to ask our citizens to put their lives on the line, Canada must ensure that adequate support programs are available for soldiers when they return home from a tour of duty or are discharged.</p> <p>Political posturing has no place in matters of national security, international commitments or treatment of our veterans.</p>

