

## BRIEFING: CANCEL THE F-35s

TO: All Members of the Senate and the House of Commons  
FROM: The Canadian No Fighter Jets Coalition ([nofighterjets.ca](http://nofighterjets.ca))  
DATE: October 20, 2022  
RE: Cancel the planned procurement of F-35 stealth fighters



Today, over 25 Canadian civil society organizations under the **No Fighter Jets Coalition** have joined the international campaign to [Ground the F-35s](#). This morning, we held a [press conference](#) with Andrew Feinstein, author of *Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade*, Kawthar Abdullah of the Yemeni Alliance Committee, and Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, who has campaigned for years against the F-35s. **We call on the Canadian government to cancel the contract to purchase Lockheed Martin F-35 stealth fighter jets because of the adverse financial, environmental and social risks, particularly to Indigenous communities.** Please see our report [Soaring: The Harms and Risks of Fighter Jets and Why Canada Must Not Buy a New Fleet](#).

The planned F-35 purchase is the second most expensive federal procurement in Canadian history. Though the purchase price is \$19 billion, the life-cycle cost for this combat aircraft has been estimated as high as \$77 billion according to our estimate [Uncovering the True Cost of 88 New Fighter Jets](#).

The F-35 is highly flawed warplane and a dangerous crash risk. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released many reports about the production problems and cost overruns. In its most recent report, the GAO found that the program is more than 8 years delayed and \$165 billion USD over original cost expectations. The GAO also found that the F-35 has unsustainable operation costs and severe technical flaws with over 864 open deficiencies.

As well, these fossil fuel-powered fighter jets will exacerbate the climate crisis. The F-35s consume the same amount of fuel in one flight as a car does in a year. A new fleet of warplanes will lock Canada into five decades of carbon-intensive militarism that will make it impossible for us to rapidly decarbonize and meet our Paris Agreement obligations by 2030. The federal government has no plan to offset these military emissions.

Fighter jets are used to bomb other countries. Over the past 20 years, Canadian CF-18s have conducted thousands of airstrikes in Libya, Syria and Iraq killing innocent people and destroying civilian infrastructure. F-35s are designed to carry conventional and strategic (nuclear) missiles and bombs, which violate Canada's commitment to the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*. Former Deputy Minister of National Defence [Charles Nixon](#) argued that we don't need any fighter jets, because all international conflict can be responsibly mediated through diplomacy and international law.

A new fleet of F35s would be based at the Cold Lake Air Force base, which was established on land expropriated without full and fair compensation from the Dene and Cree people 70 years ago. The loss of traditional territory caused trauma and poverty in the Indigenous community. The severe noise and air pollution from low-level fighter jet training in Cold Lake and in Goose Bay, Labrador continue to harm Indigenous communities and wildlife. The Indigenous communities have not been consulted on a new fleet of these fighter jets coming to their community.

Last year, over 100 notable Canadians signed onto an open letter calling on the federal government to stop the fighter jet procurement. Acclaimed musician Neil Young, environmentalist David Suzuki, author Michael Ondaatje, journalist Naomi Klein and singer-songwriter Sarah Harmer were among the list of signatories. The federal government should be investing in programs that provide genuine security for Canadians like health care, affordable housing, climate action, and reconciliation with Indigenous communities. **Cancel the contract, ground the F-35s.**