

February 23, 2015
Premier Brad Wall
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306-787-9433
2405 Legislative Drive
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Wall:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2015 written in response to the petition, No Military Training in Saskatchewan High Schools, which was delivered to the Honourable Greg Lawrence. The petition, which contains 2,047 signatures from 98 communities, was sponsored by four Saskatchewan peace organizations: Making Peace Vigil, PeaceQuest Regina, Regina Peace Council, and Saskatoon Peace Coalition.

Your letter mentions serving one's country and we agree. There are many ways of serving one's country. Making peace is one of them—and we hold to the conviction that we serve our country best when we find the path to peace through something other than the destruction of war. War is always a humanitarian disaster. War is a lose-lose situation with death and suffering on all sides.

Your letter refers to the ten students who 'became the first high school students in our province to receive high school credit for completing basic military training.' Most people are outraged by child soldiers in Somalia, Sierra Leone, and elsewhere. These teenagers are learning the wrong lessons about resolving conflict.

We are deeply worried about these ten students. One hundred and fifty-eight soldiers were killed in Afghanistan. Many more are struggling with physical and psychological wounds. As noted regularly in the media, they are not getting the help they need from veterans' services. Is this the future of these ten Regina teenagers now that Canada is engaged in two more foreign wars in Iraq and Ukraine?

We note the logo "Support Our Troops" on your letter. One of the ways the federal government could support our troops is to provide veterans with adequate medical services and another would be to work on diplomatic, peaceful solutions to current conflicts. The most effective way would be to bring them home and thus take them out of harm's way.

Our message remains "Study war no more". We respectfully urge you to end military training in Saskatchewan high schools. War is a disaster for all who experience it. Our high schools should be teaching our young people how to resolve conflicts in a non-violent-manner; not offering \$2,000 to be trained in war. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "If we are to reach real peace in the world, if we are to declare war on war, we must start with the children."

Peace,

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cc Honourable Don Morgan
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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



BRING THEM HOME NOW