

Shipbuilding Contract Alternatives

For the past five to six decades, governments around the world have had an affinity for war and oil. Unfortunately, Canada is no different. Increased military spending and an obsession with the oil sands has taken over our government in the past few years. But is there a way to reduce our quickly inflating and unnecessary defense spending, while also abating our dependency on oil?

Twenty-five billion dollars is enough to buy approximately 6250 wind turbines (each turbine is priced at an estimated 3-4 million dollars). The average wind turbine is 2.5 megawatts (MW). A 2.5 MW turbine can produce enough energy to power 625 Canadian homes. This means that if we spent the entire 25 billion dollar warship fund on wind turbines, we could power 3,609,250 homes. This is three times the population of Nova Scotia. Obviously, wind turbines to power every home in Nova Scotia would benefit more of us than the shipbuilding contract would. After having enough wind turbines for each home in Nova Scotia, we would could also power every business in Nova Scotia (ostensibly, with many turbines left to power other homes in Canada). Instead of relying on foreign oil, Nova Scotia could become entirely energy-independent. We would solve the Hydro Quebec vs. Muskrat Falls debate and be free from relying on outside entities for power. Another solution would be solar panels. An average 3.75 kilowatt solar panel (which is approximately how many kilowatts a single house would require) costs an estimated \$25,000. For 25 billion dollars we could purchase one million solar panels. Enough for each home in Nova Scotia.

This is only counting the money being put towards the shipbuilding contract. Imagine if we included the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on the Keystone XL, or the proposed 30 billion dollars for F-35 fighter jets. Instead of continuing to fuel the oil and defense industries with taxpayer's money, we could develop a cleaner and safer Canada.

Name: Emma Purdy

Age: 17

Grade: 11

High school: Sir John A. MacDonald High School

Hometown: Halifax