

Halifax activist's protest against shipbuilding contract growing in numbers

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HALIFAX - To say Tamara Lorincz is an experienced protester would be an understatement.

The Halifax resident has been to hundreds of protests over the years, often leading the charge on a number of different issues.

But Lorincz -- a member of the Halifax Peace Coalition and a one-time federal NDP candidate -- has another issue to take and, for the most part, she's doing it on her own.

She's protesting the national shipbuilding strategy, saying the federal government should be investing that money on environmental and social programs.

"This is where the federal government is planning on spending 25 billion of taxpayers' dollars to build new warships for the navy," she

said standing outside the Irving-owned Halifax Shipyard.

The Conservative government selected the shipyard to receive the lion's share of a lucrative federal shipbuilding deal, worth \$33 billion nationally, in Oct. 2011: [Irving Shipbuilding](#) will negotiate to build \$25-billion worth of combat ships, while Vancouver-based [Seaspan Marine Corp.](#) will negotiate \$8-billion worth of contracts for non-combat ships.

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"I just really, strongly believe that money can be spent in other ways that will really help Canadians," Lorincz told Global News on Wednesday. She said that belief is what keeps her coming back.

"I might be alone physically, but I know there's support around the world for creating a culture of peace," she said.

It's the fourth Wednesday in a row she has staged her noon-hour protest, and her cause appears to be gaining some ground. This week she got some company outside the shipyard.

"I think it's a movement that's going to grow," said Carolyn Vangurp, one of five people who showed up to this week's demonstration.

"The ship contract gets a lot of positive press that it could be a huge economic boom for the area, if it happens the way that they say it will happen," said Brian Mrkonjic, another protester. "I think people like Tamara look at the bigger picture, like the national picture."

Lorincz said she'll continue the protest every Wednesday in hopes that more Nova Scotians will reconsider their support for the shipbuilding contract.

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