

## Protestors call on government to abandon ships

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NEW GLASGOW - Three protestors opposing the construction of warships as part of the federal government's National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy gathered at Defence Minister Peter MacKay's office yesterday.

According to Tamara Lorincz, they don't want the government to waste tax dollars on warships.

"I'm going to tell our members of parliament that they have increased our country's national debt to \$606 billion and they are running an annual deficit of \$26 billion. We simply cannot afford the financial risk of the warships," she said.

Lorincz has been protesting the \$25 billion warship contract every week outside the Irving Shipyard in Halifax.

She delivered a petition calling on the federal government to redirect military spending to urgent social and environmental programs and the creation of a green economy.

A petition was also delivered to Cumberland-Colechester-Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong in his Truro office.

Allan Bezanson of 'No Harbour For War', a group that advocates for the de-militarization of Halifax and its harbour, says Peter MacKay has not served Canadians interests. This is despite MacKay's repeated reelection to the House of Commons.

"He is the instigator of NATO war conferences in Halifax, which is one of the largest gatherings of warmongers in Canada," he said.

Overseas naval missions, such as that undertaken by the HMCS Charlottetown, are also considered to have been under the guise of American Imperialism.

"Yes, that ship took part in the devastation of Lybia, one of the progressive, prosperous, best living, education and health in all of Africa under Gadhafi," he said.

Both groups participate in weekly protests: 'No Harbour for War' pickets every Friday at the corner of Spring Garden and Barrington and Lorincz's Wednesdays Against Warships occurs weekly outside the Irving Shipyard.

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