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Peace activist launches weekly protest against warships

(Halifax) – A Halifax-based peace activist is launching a weekly protest today outside the Irving Shipyard. Tamara Lorincz, a member of the Halifax Peace Coalition and the Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace, will be protesting every Wednesday at noon with her signs and leaflets.

“I have been writing and trying to raise awareness about the warship contract for over a year, but it is not enough so I’m launching a public protest and a new web site,” Lorincz says.

“December is a good time to start because it is the season that we wish others peace and goodwill. The warships do not reflect those holiday sentiments,” she explains. “Also, the climate change conference in Doha, Qatar just ended two weeks ago and scientists reminded us how urgent it is to take action on global warming. The federal government should take more action to reduce greenhouse gases and protect the environment.”

She hopes her weekly action and web site will help people think more critically about the fact that the federal government is spending \$25 billion of Canadians’ tax dollars for navy combat ships instead of investing in the most pressing security challenges that Canadians are facing - poverty and climate change.

“Instead of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy, the federal government could hire more Canadians and create a more energy efficient economy with a National Green Jobs Strategy or a National Affordable Housing Strategy,” she explains.

Lorincz is also troubled by the fact that every political party has supported the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy, so there has been little parliamentary oversight and public scrutiny. “I’m disappointed not one MP said in the House of Commons or stood up to ask why warships are a priority and not social and environmental programs. None of the MPs will stand up to the military and Irving on this issue unless Canadians push them to do so.”

Two years ago, Lorincz partnered with peace activists across the country to campaign against the Lockheed Martin stealth fighters. “I was right about financial problems of the stealth fighters. I know I’m right about the Irving warship contract. It will be much worse financially than the F-35s.”

She believes it is still possible to stop the contract. “With enough public pressure and exposure of the problems, we can push the federal government to cancel it because the warships haven’t been built yet.” Lorincz’s new web site is www.demilitarize.ca. She will keep track of the Irving warship contract and blog about her weekly protest.

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