

**ELECTORS' MEETING, REGINA PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**FEBRUARY 28 2018**  
**PEACE STUDIES MOTION**

*This motion is made on behalf of three Regina peace groups: Making Peace Vigil, PeaceQuest Regina, and Regina Peace Council.*

Whereas war continues to wrack many places in the world, and for the last twenty-five years Canada has been an active participant in a number of these wars (Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, Latvia), and none of the students in our schools has ever known a time of peace, their entire lives having been lived during active warfare;

And whereas a growing number of students are refugees from war;

And whereas the billions of dollars Canada spends annually on war could instead be spent in such areas as education, healthcare, affordable housing, the environment, and the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action;

And whereas growing tensions with North Korea and between the great powers has dramatically increased the likelihood of nuclear war (the "doomsday clock" of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists now reads two minutes to midnight—the closest to a nuclear catastrophe since the height of the Cold War);

And whereas Regina would not survive a nuclear war between the great powers, meaning peace is more than a question of policy or morality—it is a question of survival;

And whereas the media and popular culture have inundated our students with images of violence, the glorification of war, and propaganda for more war, leaving the schools as one of the few places this barrage of violence can be counter-acted;

Therefore be it resolved that the Regina Public School Board inform the provincial government it wants a Peace Studies program introduced into the school curriculum which would, at age-appropriate levels, introduce students to a) the real nature of war and violence; b) alternatives to war such as mediation, arbitration and international law; c) the importance of diplomacy and Canada's diplomatic successes in the past (such as Lester Pearson's Nobel Prize for mediating the Suez Crisis of 1956); d) the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in preventing war; e) critical media analysis; and f) forms of non-violent conflict resolution.

*We leave the specifics of how a Peace Studies program is to be introduced into the curriculum to the judgement of professional educators. We have, however, compiled some useful material. Please contact [makingpeace@sasktel.net](mailto:makingpeace@sasktel.net). We would also direct you to the educational resources provided by PeaceQuest in Kingston. Go to <http://peacequest.ca/> and click on "Resources."*

*In the meantime, we ask the Board to encourage teachers to make use of these peace studies resources.*