

## Sarah Leach

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**Subject:** RE: Request for Council to endorse ICAN International Cities Appeal

**From:** Dave Nicholson [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 3:29 PM

**To:** Marvin Junkin <[MJunkin@pelham.ca](mailto:MJunkin@pelham.ca)>; Marianne Stewart <[MStewart@pelham.ca](mailto:MStewart@pelham.ca)>; Ron Kore <[RKore@pelham.ca](mailto:RKore@pelham.ca)>; John Wink <[JWink@pelham.ca](mailto:JWink@pelham.ca)>; Lisa Haun <[LHaun@pelham.ca](mailto:LHaun@pelham.ca)>; Bob Hildebrandt <[BHildebrandt@pelham.ca](mailto:BHildebrandt@pelham.ca)>; Wayne Olson <[WOlson@pelham.ca](mailto:WOlson@pelham.ca)>

**Cc:** Holly Willford <[HWillford@pelham.ca](mailto:HWillford@pelham.ca)>

**Subject:** Request for Council to endorse ICAN International Cities Appeal

This is an approach to the Town of Pelham to join the ICAN(ICANW.org) Cities Appeal, which has the potential to be amongst the most defining actions of Council in the year.

I am Dr David Nicholson, a 21 year resident of Fonthill and a member of the Canadian branch of the Nobel Peace Prize winning International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). I am requesting that the Town of Pelham support the Cities Appeal, which is being led by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). So far , Toronto and Oakville have signed on to this hundreds- strong appeal: we would be the first in Niagara.

The Cities Appeal involves an endorsement by a municipality, indicating its support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and calling for the federal government to sign and ratify it without delay. As a parent and grandparent I care deeply about the threat posed by nuclear weapons. I am part of a global effort to encourage municipalities to take a stand against these inhumane and indiscriminate weapons, thus influencing Government policy.

The TPNW was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, and came into force in January 2021. It is ground breaking: a huge step forward towards the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons from the planet. The Nobel Peace Prize Committee acknowledged the Treaty as providing the best pathway towards this goal, when it awarded ICAN the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize . The Treaty prohibits states from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring , possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons. It prohibits states from allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities. It is the first international treaty which explicitly states that nuclear weapons are illegal weapons. But Canada has not signed on.

Despite the acknowledgement by Presidents Biden and Putin that a nuclear war can never be won and should never be fought, the ongoing nuclear modernization programs of nuclear- armed states are continuing to expand the number of nuclear weapon delivery vehicles, which increases the likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons, by accident, error or intent. Nuclear weapons threaten every nation's security, and if used, would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences. The impact on civilians and the environment would be devastating. These weapons are designed to flatten cities and indiscriminately raze everything and slaughter everyone in their path.

As cities are the main targets of nuclear weapons, municipalities and their elected officials have a special responsibility to their constituents to speak out against any role for nuclear weapons in national security policy. Living in one of the most tranquil and healthy places in the world, we need to do everything we can to protect it.

As the Red Cross said in 2014, nuclear weapons can only bring us to a catastrophic and irreversible scenario which no one wishes and to which no one can respond in a meaningful way.

This Treaty, through its stigmatizing normative effect, offers the best hope of ending decades of deadlock in disarmament, and moving the world towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

So my request is simply, (1) that Council endorse the Cities Appeal (SEE BELOW), and  
(2) that you inform the federal Foreign Affairs Minister that you have taken this action.  
(Email : [marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca))  
(3)that you notify ICAN that you have taken these steps.  
(Email : [info@icanw.org](mailto:info@icanw.org))

My Sincere Thanks,

David Nicholson (Dr)

**TEXT OF CITIES APPEAL :** Our town is deeply concerned about the threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore we support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on our government to sign and ratify it.