



YUACRI appeal - arms divestment

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Dear YUACRI,

I am writing to voice my support for the YU Divest proposal and call on YUACRI to recommend that the York University Board of Governors divest from Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Textron Inc., Amphenol and Northrop Grumman.

The weapons produced by these companies are being used in armed conflicts around the world to commit human-rights violations and war crimes. Many York community members have family members who are directly impacted by these weapons. A university that values the safety of its community should not be investing in companies that put the safety of its community members at risk, along with many other innocent people. Students, in particular, do not want their scholarships and bursaries financed at the expense of the well being of members of the community—including their own. Furthermore, York University is an academic institution with a stated commitment to social justice and sustainability; hence, according to its own standards, the University has a moral and institutional commitment to avoid investing in weapons manufacturers.

With an overwhelming 85 campus organisations having endorsed the YU Divest campaign, including YUFA, YUGSA, and the Undergraduate Business Society of Schulich lending their support just last year, the arms divestment movement is at its height right now. There is an incredible chance for York University to respond to community demands and to become the first university in North America to divest from arms, thus bolstering its commitment to social justice and sustainability. It would be a shame for this enthusiasm to be curbed and for York University to miss this historic opportunity to take leadership and divest from the war machine.

Kind regards,

Christopher John Chanco

Graduate Student

Department of Geography