

Refugee crisis should raise questions about Canada's role

(Re: Candidate disagrees with Navy assessment, September 3)

Candidate Menegakis boasts of increased spending on the military, omitting that every dollar contributed to the Conservative's consistent deficits.

He also neglects to mention that the major weapons systems upgrades are behind schedule, massively over-budget and the money not yet spent. The expensive platforms are of highly questionable use for defending Canada, as opposed to attacking other places like the F-35 fighter is intended.

These are really only poor execution details though if money is well spent on essential items, but I question if it is.

Under Stephen Harper, the military's role has changed from defending Canada and peacekeeping to initiating offensive military actions. This has proven universally disastrous for the U.S., with well over a million dead in Iraq and Afghanistan, yet little changed other than Saddam's generals are now leading ISIL ? an even more brutal regime.

Who are we helping with this intervention in Iraq and Syria? Certainly not the innocents; as is claimed by those who support war as the first reply to all problems.

In neighbouring Syria an uprising against the brutal tyrant has half the population trying to flee the resulting civil war. The Canadian government has been the major roadblock to stopping these refugees fleeing to Canada, and instead is now dropping bombs that may be helping the tyrant and credible reports indicate some are falling civilians.

Innocents, some who had willing sponsors in the safety of Canada, are still stuck in the local horror, or drowned at sea. If there was some way that more war could be seen to reduce this, as is the official reply of the Harper government to the people, then perhaps that money spent would be morally acceptable.

The history is clear that the result will just be an increased number of refugees.

Unless Ottawa changes they will be turned down by Canada, the country that took in 60,000 people from Vietnam when we were a more civilized country. Perhaps a few less bombs, and a few more transports bringing in new citizens should have a role in Canada's future.

John Shaw
Aurora