

# Canada Stuck in NATO Penalty Box Through 2030

New defense spending plan fails to hit 2-percent target.

By [Kyle Duggan](#)

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*Canada is not about to meet its NATO defense spending commitments anytime soon, a long-awaited major defense policy update revealed on Monday.*

In 2023 at NATO's Vilnius summit, Canada committed alongside its allies to spend 2 percent of GDP on defense, but Ottawa's most recent projections have its defense spend-to-GDP ratio hit 1.76 percent in 2029-30, at a ballpark of C\$57.8 billion.

The news comes as [a record number of NATO's allies](#) will meet the 2 percent target, and follows months of pressure from allies for Canada to end its free-rider status in the alliance.

It comes days ahead of Canada's budget, details of which have been revealed in a stream of announcements designed to shore up attention on the governing Liberals as they struggle against Conservatives surging in the polls.

Canada's **Defense Minister Bill Blair** nonetheless billed the new spending announced Monday as a "very significant and necessary step towards reaching our NATO commitment" because it sets out billions to advance it from [1.38 percent](#), according to NATO's July 2023 estimates.

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Articles by: **Kyle Duggan**

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