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10 REASONS THE F-35 STEALTH FIGHTER IS WRONG FOR CANADA (and one extra)

- 1 The F-35 is for “shock and awe” combat missions**
Its stealth capability and weapons are intended for U.S.-style first-strike attacks, a role Canada does not need to play.
- 2 The F-35 is way too expensive**
According to National Defence’s estimate, the cost of purchasing 65 U.S.-built F-35 stealth fighters is between \$16 and \$21 billion – the most expensive military project in Canadian history.
- 3 The government’s finances are in bad shape**
The annual federal deficit is expected to reach \$56 billion this year, and cuts to social programs are expected.
- 4 The F-35 is ill suited for the Arctic**
Its stealth characteristic is not needed, and only one engine instead of two puts pilots at risk of being stranded in the far north by an engine failure.
- 5 Little, if any, of the \$16 billion will stay in Canada**
Unlike previous military contracts, in this one the Harper government has not required the U.S. manufacturer Lockheed Martin to invest “dollar-for-dollar” in Canada.
- 6 It is costing Canada job opportunities**
Buying any other aircraft would allow the government to require “Industrial and Regional Benefits.” Instead, the Harper Conservatives just hope we’ll get contracts from the U.S. manufacturer, Lockheed Martin.
- 7 The F-35 is still a model airplane**
The F-35 is still being tested and production is years behind schedule, leaving operating and maintenance costs completely unknown.
- 8 There was no competition**
In a sweetheart deal, the Harper Conservatives committed to Lockheed Martin rather than inviting other firms to put in proposals, increasing the cost by an estimated 20 per cent.
- 9 There is no hurry to replace our CF-18s**
Canada’s current fleet of CF-18s just completed a \$2.6 billion upgrade, making them effective until at least 2017, according to the air force.
- 10 There is no Russian Arctic threat**
NORAD’s U.S. commander said he sees no military challengers in the Arctic, and he is focused on preventing another 9/11 type of attack.

PLUS **There is no contract to break**
Despite the government’s commitment to Lockheed Martin’s F-35 stealth fighter, there is no signed contract and therefore no firm price expected until 2013, or even later.

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