

## Overview

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### **A MINISTER FOR PEACE FOR CANADA TO IMPLEMENT A CULTURE OF PEACE**

Given the escalation of violent conflict, the increased threat of nuclear annihilation and lawlessness across our world today, there has never been greater urgency or a better window of opportunity to promote this initiative in Canada. The department would develop a coordinated and coherent paradigm for a sustainable peace across all government departments. The Minister would advance an agenda for a new architecture of peace by supporting and establishing activities that promote a culture of peace and assertive non-violence in Canada and the world.

Drawing inspiration from similar initiatives in the US, UK and over 30 other countries, we anticipate that the Minister's mandate would include the following objectives:

1. Develop early detection and rapid response processes to deal with emerging conflicts and establish systemic responses to post-conflict demobilization, reconciliation and reconstruction.
2. Lead internationally to abolish nuclear, biological, chemical weapons, to reduce conventional weapon arsenals and to ban the weaponization of space
3. Implement the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1999) to safeguard human rights and enhance the security of persons and their communities
4. Implement UN Resolution 1325 on the key role played by women in the wide spectrum of peacebuilding work
5. Establish a Civilian Peace Service that, with other training organizations, will recruit, train and accredit peace professionals and volunteers to work at home and abroad, as an alternative to armed intervention
6. Address issues of violence in Canada by promoting nonviolent approaches that encourage community involvement and responsibility such as Restorative Justice, Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)
7. Support the development of peace education at all levels including post-secondary peace and conflict studies
8. Promote the transition from a war-based to a peace-based economy.

We are dedicated to generating the political will for this initiative by reaching out, not only to politicians, but to the broad spectrum of our citizens including peace and justice organizations, faith communities, artists, choirs, healthcare professionals, teachers, service clubs, cultural communities and businesses. Eight chapters presently exist in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, London, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal. Canada is a founding member of the Global Alliance for Ministries and

Departments of Peace [www.mfp-dop.org](http://www.mfp-dop.org) of over 30 countries promoting departments of peace and hosted the Victoria Summit, as well as a major event at the World Peace Forum, June 2006.

In pursuing this initiative, we recognize that the crisis facing humanity is not only social, political, economic and environmental, but also spiritual in nature. We believe that creating a culture of peace is an ongoing and longterm process but it is our intention to turn the tide in our generation working closely with Canadian youth.

*"Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means"*

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- *Canadian Peace Initiative*
- [www.departmentofpeace.ca](http://www.departmentofpeace.ca)
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- **Establish a Department of Peace in Canada and make right relations between people our primary defence**

## List of Supporters

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### PROMINENT SUPPORTERS

- **Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford**  
International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War
- **Hon. Lloyd Axworthy**  
O.C., President, University of Manitoba
- The Late **Dr. Paz Buttedahl**  
Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC
- The Late **Marion Dewar**  
Former Mayor of Ottawa
- The Late **Muriel Duckworth**  
CM, Co-Founder, *Canadian Voice of Women for Peace*
- **Dr. Eric Hoskins**  
Co-Director, *The War Child*
- **Senator Mobina Jaffer**  
Promoter of human rights and women's roles in peace and security

- **Gerald Caplan**  
Expert, Genocide Prevention
- **Hon. Flora MacDonald**
- **Professor Graeme MacQueen**  
McMaster University (Hans Sinn)
- **Hon. Alexa McDonough**  
Former Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada
- **Richard. J. Moore**  
President, MDR Conflict Resolution Inc., Ottawa
- **Mike Nickerson**  
Sustainability Project (Ontario)
- **Professor Glenn D. Paige**  
Author, Nonkilling Global Political Science,  
Center for Global Nonviolence, Hawaii
- **Navin M. Parekh**  
CM, Former President, Canadian Ethnocultural Council
- **Senator Douglas Roche**  
O.C., Author and Nuclear Disarmament activist
- **Senator Nancy Ruth**
- **Daniel Schugurensky**  
Professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto
- **Professor John Sigler**  
Group of 78, Former director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton  
University, Ottawa
- **Stephen Staples**  
Director, Rideau Institute and [Ceasefire.ca](http://Ceasefire.ca)
- **Robert "Bob" Stewart**  
Canadian Centre for Teaching Peace
- **Murray Thomson**  
O.C. Co-Founder, [Project Ploughshares](http://ProjectPloughshares)
- **Professor John E. Trent**  
Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa
- **Senator Nancy Ruth, Canada**
- **Hon. Flora Macdonald**  
Former Leader, Conservative Party of Canada

- **Edward Lee**  
Former Ambassador and Legal Advisor, Foreign Affairs Canada
- **Dr. Anne Pearson, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario**
- **Raffi Cavoukian, the Children’s Troubadour and Founder of the Centre for Child Honouring**

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

- Anglican Church of Canada-Diocese of Ottawa
- Beyond War Canada
- Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution
- Muslim Coordinating Council of the National Capital Region
- Canadian Peace Alliance
- Canadian Pugwash Group
- Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
- Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Center for Global Nonviolence, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Cercle de Paix — Circle of Peace
- Civilian Peace Service Canada
- Conscience Canada
- Council of Canadians
- Cultivons La Paix
- The Dalai Lama Foundation Canada
- Educating for Peace
- Hiroshima Day Coalition
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada
- Mennonite Church Canada
- Nobel Women’s Peace Initiative
- Nonviolent Peaceforce Canada
- Physicians for Global Survival
- Project Ploughshares – Ottawa

- Science for Peace
- Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUJS)
- United Church of Canada
- Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (Ontario/Québec Region)
- The XXV Congress of the World Federalist Movement (Geneva, August 31 2007, adopted unanimously)
- World Federalist Movement — Canada
- World Conference on Religions for Peace
- YOUCAN
- Pax Christi Toronto <http://www.catholicsforpeace.ca/>
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Vancouver Branch <<http://wilpfvancouver.ca/>>
- Canadian Catholic Organization for Peace and Development <<http://devp.org>>
- Centre for Child Honouring (Raffi Cavoukian) <<http://childhonouring.org>>
- Sri Chimnoy's World Harmony Run <<http://worldharmonyrun.org>>
- Nonviolence International Canada <<http://ca.nonviolenceinternational.net>>