

“The peoples of the Earth have a sacred right to Peace”
—Sen. Doug Roche

To impact our politicians and move forward the initiative for a Federal Department of Peace, a ground swell of supportive and informed people is needed. One way to achieve this is through the formation of chapters in towns and cities across Canada.

Chapter Formation Ideas

To assist in the formation of chapters, please find below a number of ideas to be augmented by your own. You are the people who know your home places best!

1. Form an organizing committee—advertise a general meeting and find a suitable venue for the numbers you anticipate. Serve simple refreshments and advertise the fact. Better to have an overflowing small room than a partially-empty large one.
2. Recruit companion peace and justice organizations in your area, such as Project Ploughshares, World Federalists, Council of Canadians, Conscience Canada and local groups.
3. Ask a prominent local peace worker or a sympathetic politician to speak on the significance and need for a Department of Peace. Alternatively organize a panel discussion around the need for establishing a Department of Peace, etc.
4. Ask the companion organizations to advertise the event via their elists.
5. Utilize all free calendar listings.
6. Create a one-page press release with a one-page backgrounder (we have one at www.departmentofpeace.ca) and circulate them to all media sources. Submit an article to your local newspapers, and cable TV listings. Organize radio and television interviews (I am available for interviews at 250-383-5878 if needed.) Don't neglect the community newspapers delivered gratis door-to-door since some research shows that these are the most read print sources and they are often looking for editorial content. The alternative press is another good source. At the meeting, provide handouts from material available from our web site.
7. Maintain an updated list of interested people, with email addresses and details of specific skills that people are willing to volunteer.
8. Some relevant music and/or audience-participation singing or poetry reading may appeal to a diverse audience.
9. Announce the date and place of the next meeting and a suggested topic or agenda, ie: Organizing a meeting with your local MP to discuss a department of Peace.
10. Take up a collection to defray expenses by a suggested admission or passing the hat.