

“The creation of a Ministry for Peace... is not the final achievement, merely the making of a road to achieve a sustainable order that would allow resolution of human conflicts without violence”

— Dr Oscar Arias,
President of Costa Rica and
Nobel Peace Laureate

“The Canadian Department of Peace Initiative is the right action at the right time... as more and more citizens and politicians recognize and act upon the human right to peace.”

— The Honourable Doug Roche,
Former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament

“Years hence, when every country has a Ministry of Peace, people will look back and ask: ‘What took us so long?’ After all, we have a ministry for almost everything else: health, education and so on. How odd that, of all things, we have no ministries of peace.”

— Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche,
Spiritual Leader of Shambhala Buddhism

“The idea of establishing a department of peace is beyond overdue. We must strive to become a beacon of hope. We must usher in a new era of conflict resolution.”

— Senator Mobina Jaffer

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www.departmentofpeace.ca

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Our commitment is to implement a culture of peace, working closely with a broad spectrum of civil society organizations, and with a focus on engaging youth.

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Campaign to Establish a Canadian **DEPARTMENT OF PEACE**



CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION
by **PEACEFUL MEANS**

A Canadian Department of Peace would create, across government, a coherent paradigm for a sustainable peace in Canada and the world.

www.departmentofpeace.ca

Creating a Culture of Peace & Nonviolence in Canada & the World

WE, THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF PEACE INITIATIVE, are committed to the establishment of a Department of Peace within the Government of Canada. The Department of Peace would work towards building a new architecture of peace by establishing and supporting a culture of peace and assertive non-violence in Canada and the world. We are part of a growing international movement with:

- ▶ 12 chapters across Canada (coast to coast to coast)
- ▶ Citizens from 35 countries represented in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, of which Canada is a founding member
- ▶ Three countries now having implemented Ministers/Departments of Peace: Costa Rica (2009), Nepal (2007) and the Solomon Islands (2005)

Supporters of the Initiative include such prominent Canadians as the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Senators Doug Roche and Mobina Jaffer, along with more than 30 national organizations such as the Council of Canadians, World Federalist Movement (Canada) and Physicians for Global Survival.

IN THE SHORT TERM, THE GOAL IS to utilize the principles outlined in Bill C-447, the Bill to Establish a Department of Peace, as a road map to developing the department and to create an all-party parliamentary committee to further this process. The achievement of a Department of Peace will require a great commitment by all of our endorsing organizations and the Canadian people in general, to make this idea irresistible to politicians.

the Proposed Mandate

- 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 and chemical weapons; to reduce conventional weapon arsenals and to ban the weaponization of space.
- 3 IMPLEMENT THE 1999 UN DECLARATION and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace to safeguard human rights and enhance the security of persons and their communities.
- 4 IMPLEMENT UN RESOLUTION 1325 to protect and support 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 and Alternate Dispute Resolution.
- 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.



Recent Accomplishments

- ▶ Bill C-447, a *Bill to Establish a Department of Peace*, passed First Reading in the House of Commons in September 2009 with 20 co-signers, the maximum allowable under the rules.
- ▶ The NDP Federal Caucus and the Green Party support the initiative; support has been received by members of the Liberal Caucus, and its leader has proposed a *Centre of Excellence in Conflict Prevention & Resolution*.
- ▶ Parliament acknowledged September 21 as *International Day of Peace & Global Ceasefire* to bring attention to non-military solutions to conflict.
- ▶ Three Pan Canadian conferences were convened with renowned speakers, members of Parliament and community leaders, and a parliamentary reception on the initiative was hosted for MPs in May 2010.
- ▶ Our list of supporters, individuals and groups continue to grow, with our supporters now representing two million Canadians.
- ▶ Media covered the topic, including CBC, Canwest papers nationwide, YouTube and on local radio.