

strife can sometimes be avoided if people talk rather than shout or shoot. Peacekeeping is designed to let people talk.

The Canadian experience proves that while there are often rights and wrongs, there are also often two sides to a story -- or even more -- and that dialogue is not the avenue of the fearful but the successful. Peacekeeping is designed to let that dialogue happen.

The Canadian experience proves that solutions often do not lie in grand schemes, but in processes that work and procedures that are practical. Peacekeeping is practical. It avoids grand schemes.

The Canadian experience proves that stability is not the opposite of change but rather its foundation. Peacekeeping provides the stability to allow change to take place.

The Canadian experience proves that while compromise may preclude total victory, it also preserves peace. Peacekeeping preserves peace and gives compromise a chance.

Canadians know what is required to keep this a peaceable kingdom. And because of that, they know that behaviour is even more necessary abroad.

Another thing Canadians know is that institutions must grow if they are to remain relevant. Peacekeeping is no exception. Peacekeeping must adapt to new opportunities and new challenges. We are at such a moment now, a moment of new challenge and opportunity.

The challenge is one of quantity and quality. In the last year alone, the United Nations has set up more peacekeeping operations than it did in its previous 20 years of existence. More will follow.

In addition, peacekeeping has become more than the parking of soldiers between armies. The UN operation in Namibia helped bring independence to the last colony in Africa. That operation involved 100 countries. It ran elections. It ran a police force. The UN became, in effect, a partner in an interim government. In Central America, the UN monitored not only a ceasefire across borders, but also monitored a ceasefire within borders. It assisted in returning refugees. It observed an election.