

to the World Trade Organization), Montréal (Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Civil Aviation Organization), Nairobi (Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Environment Programme), Paris (Permanent Delegation of Canada to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Rome (Permanent Mission of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Organization) and Vienna (Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna).

Public opinion surveys consistently show that Canadians have a high regard for the UN. In fact, 90 percent of Canadians in a recent poll said that Canada should continue to put a high priority on its role in the UN. The United Nations is not perfect; indeed, as noted earlier, it is only as efficient and relevant as its 188 member states allow it to be. The UN has, however, demonstrated the ability to adapt, institutionally and operationally, as new issues

have emerged and as relations between countries continue to evolve. The United Nations remains crucial to Canada and, we believe, essential to the conduct of diplomacy in an ever more interdependent world. It is a precious resource that we are committed to preserving.

Following are some of the major sectors of UN activity in which Canada has been, and will continue to be, particularly active.

Security Council

For the sixth time since 1948, Canada has a seat as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Canada's term on the Council runs from January 1, 1999, to December 31, 2000. Canada intends to make use of its term to work for progress on issues to which it attaches particular importance: promoting the concept of human security, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding; human rights; and humanitarian issues. Canada will also work to make the Council more open, transparent and responsive to all UN member states, and to make it more representative of new geopolitical realities.

Peacekeeping

Since its beginnings in 1956, peacekeeping has become an integral and high-profile component of UN operations. Since 1957, when Lester B. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in developing the concept of peacekeeping, Canadians have felt a commitment to peacekeeping and have accepted frequent requests to join the Blue Berets in operations around the world.

One of a growing group of countries to which the UN regularly turns when it requires peacekeeping advice and expert military contributions, Canada has participated in almost all the peacekeeping operations mandated by the UN Security Council—in Cyprus, Bosnia, Haiti and elsewhere.

Canadians have served in more than 30 separate missions. Among them have



CIDA photo: David Barbour