

The peace movement is becoming a national movement, and in November, the first attempt to form a national coalition of peace groups will take place in Toronto. This conference (assisted by a \$25,000 grant from the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs) will bring together more than 300 delegates from major peace groups across the country.

The members of Canada's peace movement are today's realists -- recognising that it is the height of idealism to think that the world can continue to amass vast nuclear and conventional arsenals and yet never use them. The peace movement is urging governments everywhere to recognise the new global reality that demands that cooperation replace confrontation in the conduct of international relations.

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While the marches and protests receive the most media attention, it is, in fact, the educational activities of the peace movement that are having the most profound effect. Through its efforts, the peace movement is not only helping to change perceptions but is influencing opinion across the country. Knowledge is indeed power and the efforts of the peace movement to educate the public are having a demonstrable effect on public opinion and awareness.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark recognized this when he stated:

"The Canadian peace movement plays an essential part in the new Canadian dialogue: for the peace movement challenges assumptions, not just policy, and forces us to examine those assumptions more closely."

The peace movement has been instrumental in giving a sense of hope and power to individuals who have felt frightened and isolated in their concerns about the alarming trends in international relations. In a country as vast as Canada, the peace movement is an essential component in giving groups and individuals a common sense of purpose -- something that universally unites people and communities from Charlottetown to Whitehorse -- the preservation of life on the planet.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has also given his support to these efforts. Speaking of the peace movement last December in the House of Commons, he said: