

Bearing the nickname "Mike," Pearson was one of the Department's first recruits in the 1920s and quickly established himself as a perceptive observer and able writer. In 1935 he was sent to London as First Secretary of the Canadian High Commission, a posting that gave him a front row seat as Europe drifted toward war. He subsequently served as Under-Secretary and then Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the United Nations in 1956, he helped to resolve the Suez Crisis by proposing a peacekeeping force – a contribution that earned him the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize. He served as Prime Minister from 1963 to 1968.

In this area, visitors will find a bronze statue of Pearson by Danek Mozdzinski, along with display cases containing the citation from the Nobel Prize Committee and the original medal presented to Pearson in 1957, in Oslo, Norway. These were generously donated to the Department in 1992 by Pearson's son Geoffrey.

The centrepiece of the area is the Lester B. Pearson Memorial Mural – a triptych entitled *Thought screen Timespace*, by abstract expressionist Charles Gagnon. With a photographer's keen eye, this Montreal artist incorporates quotations from Pearson's writing and speeches, even reproducing the original typescript of some of the documents. By choosing a palette of neutral colours, Gagnon demonstrates the sense of nuance and compromise that are characteristic of his subject.

A final commemorative work is the painting entitled *The Passing of Lester B. Pearson, Peacemaker*, by William Kurelek. Born in a small Ukrainian farm community near Edmonton, Kurelek grew up on the Prairies in the farming heartland of Canada. This painting pays a personal tribute to the man Kurelek admired as a great Canadian and a unifying force