

Developing Global Citizens

“Since wars are made in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”
– Charter of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 1945.

A new national survey of 3,600 teenagers from 175 high schools across Canada shows that the threat of nuclear war is considered a “very serious” problem by 48 percent of 15-19 year-olds.¹

A recently published survey of 690 primary, secondary and college students in Central Alberta reveals a high degree of concern about nuclear annihilation.²

In a Canadian pilot study of 1,011 students undertaken by the Children’s Mental Health Study Group, the worry of nuclear war was listed as “very important” in 63 percent of responses.³

In addition to the evidence of these three studies, psychiatrists and psychologists have told me personally that the threat of nuclear war is having a harmful psychological effect on young people.

It is now evident that the nuclear weapon mentality of our age has seeped through to the minds of the coming generation. Far from making children feel secure – something every parent wants to do – the ceaseless nuclear arms build-up is producing a sense of fatalism in a growing number of young people.

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1. Reginald Bibby and Donald Posterski, *The Emerging Generation—An Inside Look at Canadian Teenagers*, Irwin, 1985.
 2. Dr. B.Y. Card, *Central Alberta Student and Teacher Behaviours and Attitudes Related to War*, Red Deer College, 1984.
 3. *Children’s Mental Health and the Threat of Nuclear War: A Canadian Pilot Study*, Toronto, 1984.