

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCBC)

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Organization's mandate/goals:

Founded in 1943 and officially recognized by the Holy See in 1948, the CCCB is the national association of Canada's bishops. It is part of a network of episcopal conferences established by Vatican Council II (1962-65) as permanent institutions where national bishops exercise certain pastoral offices. The Episcopal Commission for Social Services, which is part of the CCCB, assists the bishops and the people of God in proclaiming the Gospel through activities for justice and the transformation of society. The Commission does research and education and suggests action on a variety of social justice concerns, both nationally and internationally. The Commission assists bishops and the people of God in proclaiming the Gospel through activities for justice and the transformation of society.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Advocacy for Legislation and Regulation

The CCBC has been actively engaged in mobilizing support for stricter controls on licit transfers of small arms at the domestic and international level.

Human and Social Development -- *Develop public education programs to enhance efforts to counter SALW proliferation and the development of "gun cultures"*

The CCCB assists Canadian bishops in their role as moral teachers in accordance with the social teachings of the Church and the CCCB's pastoral objectives. The activities of the Commission fall under three main themes: Faith and Justice, Justice in Canada and Justice in the Third World. It aims, by interventions and initiatives (i.e., briefs, letters, messages), to make more explicit the links between faith and justice, which is part of evangelism and communicating the social teachings of the Church. The CCBC has been actively engaged in a range of efforts aimed at addressing the demand for small arms and countering the culture of violence.