

Canada's very significant contributions to the United Nations "family" of organizations, coupled with the Canadian tradition of prompt and full payment, are an indication of this country's firm support for the UN system.

While some of the UN organizations and agencies, such as the Universal Postal Union, have existed since the late nineteenth century, thus antedating the founding of the UN itself, the majority have been created since 1945. Their main purpose is, through international co-operation in almost all fields of human activity, to foster a peaceful international environment.

Canada's contributions to the United Nations fall into three broad categories: (a) annual assessments to finance appropriations of the organization under its regular budget; (b) voluntary contributions to the activities of a variety of multilateral economic, social and humanitarian programs; (c) peace-keeping contributions. The assessed and voluntary payments made by Canada to the United Nations since its inception in 1945 total approximately \$1.3 billion (Cdn).

The following pages provide a detailed survey of the nature and extent of Canada's contributions to the UN system. It is of interest to note that, quite apart from the annual contributions summarized in Appendix B, Canada also contributes to several special programs set out in Appendix A. To put Canadian contributions in perspective, Appendix C outlines the contributions of Canada and 13 other countries to five voluntary programs over the past few years.

The United Nations regular budget is approved on a biennial basis. In 1978-79 the total approved expenditures were \$986 million (U.S.). This sum was apportioned among the members of the United Nations in accordance with their ability to pay. The level of member states' contributions or the scale of assessments is determined primarily by estimates of the net national product of member states. In addition, minimum (.02) and maximum (25.0) percentages have been set for country payments. In 1978 the United Nations assessed Canada at a rate of 3.04 per cent of the budget, which meant that Canada's payment of close to \$11.5 million (U.S.) was the eighth-largest contribution.