

A very special -- and unusual -- conference will be held in Halifax next June. The Coalition of Canadian Women's Groups will host an international gathering on: "The Urgency for True Security; Women's Alternatives to Negotiating Peace."

The conference will draw women from 26 groups across Canada, as well as from 50 countries around the world; women who have demonstrated an interest and commitment to international peace and security issues, women who have shown innovative and creative approaches to resolving global conflict and situations of confrontation, women who have experience in achieving non-violent solutions to confrontations.

During the four-day conference, women will work toward a definition of true security and analyze the current status of international negotiations.

They will share experiences and ideas on alternative ways of building towards trust and resolving conflict.

They will explore ways of applying these alternatives to reducing the present level of hostilities and stopping the arms race.

In recognition of the importance of this special event, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced on October 1, 1984 that a grant of \$150,000 had been awarded to help in the preparation of the conference by the Disarmament Fund, the largest grant yet made.

The Women's Conference is a sign of our times. If this decade is characterized by global political tension, it is also a moment of great creativity. Ever-increasing numbers of people are reaching out, exploring new ways of strengthening security while halting the arms race. The Women's Conference will serve to confirm the traditionally important role of women in the Canadian peace movement and in peace movements around the world. During the nuclear weapons debate of the 1960s, the Voice of Women was among the most prominent and vocal in speaking out against the acquisition of nuclear weapons. Now, the Halifax conference will carry on in the tradition and spirit of the women who were a fundamental component of the fledgling peace movement of the '60s.

In bringing women from across the country together, it will provide further evidence of the "widening-out" of today's peace movement. It is no longer a movement which can be dismissed as left-wing or radical; rather it is today a movement which cuts across all ages, professions and social backgrounds. The women who will gather in Halifax will also represent other highly-respected organizations such as Project Ploughshares, Physicians for Social Responsibility,