Canadian Peacebuilding in the Middle East:
Case Study of the Canada Fund in Israel/Palestine and Jordan
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Post-Cold War Canadian foreign policy is characterized by new methods and philosophies of engagement in international zones of conflict. This reorientation takes place against the background of new forms of armed conflict and new sources of insecurity in the international system in the last few decades. In the past, Canada's stature in diplomatic and peacekeeping initiatives was attributed to its designation as a "middle power" (Cooper, Higgot & Nossal, 1999), and its reputation for impartiality in international disputes. Traditional Canadian peacekeeping was generally limited to third party intervention in wars between states, such as mediating between hostile parties, bringing them to the negotiating table, and helping to monitor a negotiated settlement.

By way of contrast, post-Cold War Canadian initiatives differ both in scope and context. First, they address protracted armed conflicts that take place not only between states, but also conflicts of an ethnic/communal and/or tribal nature that occur within and across state borders. Second, they involve not only the military aspects of conflicts, but also the socio-political issues related both to conflict and peace negotiations in post-conflict situations. The current international context has brought about new challenges and opportunities for Canadian foreign policy development. This article explores the transition in Canadian foreign policy from peacekeeping to peacebuilding based on a case study of the Canada Fund for Dialogue and Development (CFDD) in Israel/Palestine and Jordan. The primary intent of this fund in the Middle East is to promote mutual respect and understanding through dialogue on issues related to the Peace Process between Israelis and Arabs.[1] The intention of this research is to determine the extent to which Canadian-

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[1] Canada Fund for Dialogue and Development brochure, Canadian Embassy, Tel Aviv.