

**United Church of Canada**

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**Organization's mandate/goals:**

The United Church of Canada is the largest Protestant denomination in Canada. They minister to over 3 million people in 3820 congregations across the country.

The United Church has always been vocal and influential about relationships of people with one another. Continuing in the traditions of its founding denominations, the United Church has spoken out strongly and consistently on highly controversial subjects and is engaged in ongoing study and statements on such issues as nuclear power, the right of farm labour to organize, abortion, capital punishment, racial injustices, guaranteed annual income, land use, refugees, the massive problem of poverty both at home and abroad and numerous other issues. In all such matters they provide educational resources for their members and they make their official positions known to governmental or other appropriate agencies.

**Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:****Working with Vulnerable Groups**

The United Church carries out its wider ministry through coastal missions, Native congregations, hospitals, ethnic ministries, rural and urban work and homes for senior citizens, children and unmarried mothers. It provides services to alienated youth and people with alcoholism and it operates half-way homes for released prisoners. Its chaplains serve hospitals, universities, prisons, and homes for the mentally and physically disabled.