

The UPU dates back to 1875. The Secretariat is composed of only 17 permanent members and 11 extra staff. The organization works quietly, but very efficiently. When one drops a letter in the corner post box with complete confidence that it will arrive at its destination at the other end of the earth, this is evidence that the UPU is one of the most effective examples of international co-operation on a practical level.

World Health Organization

The objective of the World Health Organization (WHO), as set forth in its Constitution, is "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health". Canada has been a member of WHO since it was established as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations in 1948. Dr. Brock Chisholm of Canada is the Director-General of WHO and although his term of office would normally end in 1953, the Fifth World Health Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution extending this term to July 20, 1956. Dr. Chisholm has been requested to inform the President of the Fifth World Health Assembly on or before December 31, 1952 whether he will accept a prolongation of his contract.

Canada has been represented at all the World Health Assemblies, including the Fourth Assembly in May 1951 and the Fifth Assembly in May 1952. At these meetings programmes of work have been approved which are intended to help governments to develop the balanced health services they require. This work is done more and more on the basis of regional planning, chiefly by making available training facilities and technical staff to get health activities started which governments will later be able to maintain themselves. WHO will also continue its campaigns against certain widespread diseases and will continue to promote maternal and child welfare. Field work begun by WHO is often multiplied many times by the subsequent efforts of the countries concerned, and as an example the Fourth World Health Assembly was informed that whereas a million and a half people had been freed from the scourge of malaria by DDT spray teams sent out by WHO, follow-up campaigns by governments raised that number to over 50 million. The principle of helping others to help themselves is at the core of WHO programmes of work.

At the Fourth and Fifth World Health Assemblies "technical discussions" were held to clarify specific problems and to suggest means of coping with them successfully. These discussions were open to representatives of governments which cared to participate, and they were conducted more informally than meetings considering regular WHO business. At the Fourth Assembly the topic for discussion was "the education and training of medical and public health personnel", and at the Fifth Assembly the subject was "methodology of health protection in local areas". Canadian representatives took part in these technical discussions and found them to be useful.