

## **Alternatives**

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### Organization's mandate/goals:

Alternatives meets the needs and responds to the demands of progressive Canadians, and tries to create a more equitable and sustainable country for all. Once a month they publish two newspapers, one in English and one in French. The newspaper offers a different interpretation of current events and provides coverage of International issues that are not often found in the more mainstream press. Their National and International programming incorporates pan-Canadian concerns.

Alternatives works with other NGOs and grassroots organizations throughout the world. The common platform is the desire to foster a democracy built by people who are fighting for social justice and a more equitable society.

### Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Human and Social Development -- *Building good governance and transparency*

Alternatives is working for peace with eleven partner-groups in seven war-torn countries. Alternatives has forged alliances with these grassroots organizations to support their initiatives to heal the wounds of war, rebuild devastated areas, and ensure that human rights are respected.

Health -- *Medical assistance and training*

Currently, Alternatives is working on projects involving Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in El Salvador, India and Vietnam.

Working with Vulnerable Groups -- *Advocacy*

Alternatives assists its local partners as they work with the disenfranchised, the disempowered and others who have been excluded from taking their rightful place in society. Projects touch on a variety of issues, including women's rights, democratic development, peace building and youth empowerment.