

International Year of Peace: Contributions by Canadians

For Canadians, no duty is more challenging than to contribute constructively to peace among nations.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark
Speaking in Ottawa, January 23, 1986.

Shortly after assuming office, I said that Canada would work relentlessly to reduce tensions, to alleviate conflict, and to create the conditions for a general and lasting peace. I added then, and I repeat: 'the exercise of political will is nowhere more important than on this issue, on whose outcome the lives of our children and of humanity depend'.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
Speaking in Ottawa, October 31, 1985.

The United Nations proclaimed 1986 to be International Year of Peace (IYP) to increase global awareness and involvement in attaining peace. The proclamation calls on governments, organizations and all individuals "to join with the United Nations in resolute efforts to safeguard peace and the future of humanity".

Canada was a co-sponsor of the IYP resolution that received the UN General Assembly's unanimous consent on October 24, 1985.

Peace is defined broadly in the IYP resolution. It encompasses disarmament, the arms race and the prevention of war as well as issues of social progress and economic development, the promotion of human rights and freedoms, the elimination of racial discrimination, the satisfaction of human needs and protection of the environment.

In the context of this broad definition, Canadians across the country responded to the challenge and participated in efforts to advance closer relationships among all peoples. "For many Canadians, the IYP proclamation confirmed what we had already known," said Canada's Ambassador

for Disarmament Douglas Roche: "It has served to remind us that peace without development is not peace, that peace without racial equality and harmony is not peace, that peace without a reasonable quality of life is not peace."

(Canada's peace program is outlined on Page 5.)

Leaves intertwined on commemorative coin

The limited-edition \$100 Canadian gold coin commemorating International Year of Peace was available from August 15 to November 30. It was the eleventh issue in Canada's \$100 Gold Commemorative Coin Program by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Designed by internationally acclaimed Toronto artist Dora de Pédery-Hunt, the coin depicts a branch of maple leaves intertwined with a branch of olive leaves, symbols of Canada and peace. The words "Peace" - "Paix" form a circle superimposed on the design.

The obverse bears Arnold Machin's effigy of Queen Elizabeth II.



The 22-karat gold coin contains one half troy ounce of pure gold. It has a diameter of 27 millimetres, a thickness of 2.15 millimetres and weighs 16.965 grams.