

The new, broad-based membership of the movement reflects the universal danger of the nuclear threat and the realization that the debate over nuclear and conventional weapons is something that involves everyone. The Canadian public, through the peace movement, wants to participate in the determination of its future.

Since the early 1980s, coalitions of disarmament groups have been developing and growing throughout the country. Today there are disarmament networks in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver — representing hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of individuals.

The growth of the peace movement has been impressive. For example, the Toronto Disarmament Network, which was established in early 1982 with 15 member organizations, now includes more than 70 groups. In Vancouver, End the Arms Race, established at the same time, encompasses 200 organizations, including churches, labour, community and professional groups.

The peace movement is becoming a national movement, and in November, the first attempt to form a national coalition of peace groups will take place in Toronto. This conference (assisted by a \$25,000 grant from the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs) will bring together more than 300 delegates from major peace groups across the country.

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While the marches and protests receive the most media attention, it is, in fact, the educational activities of the peace movement that are having the most profound effect. Efforts to educate the public are having a demonstrable effect on public opinion and awareness.

External Affairs Minister Clark recognized this when he stated:

“The Canadian peace movement plays an essential part in the new Canadian dialogue: for the peace movement challenges assumptions, not just policy, and forces us to examine those assumptions more closely.”