

## PEACEBUILDING

*"We feel that the primary task of the new world organization must be to remove the social and economic as well as the political causes of international friction and international dispute. What we are trying to create here is a league for peace, not a league for war."*

Lester B. Pearson  
1945

With this long-standing interest in peacekeeping, it was natural for Canada to assess how the international community might respond to one of the most significant challenges we face in the post-Cold War world: building sustainable peace in countries prone to recurring cycles of violence. The international community has begun to rethink the whole concept of human security and, as the means to foster human security, peacebuilding.

Human security recognises that democratic development, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, good governance, sustainable development and social equity are as important to global peace as are arms control and disarmament. Peacebuilding seeks to strengthen the capacity of a society to manage conflict without violence. Peacebuilding aims to put in place the conditions and institutions under which a country can take charge of its destiny, and social, political and economic development become possible.

To support peacebuilding, Canada has established the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative, including the \$10 million Peacebuilding Fund. The Fund provides the tools needed to respond quickly and effectively to the complex requirements of building peace – helping to re-establish the judicial, legislative, police and human rights institutions necessary to promote trust and

confidence among diverse communities within societies in conflict. One important achievement of this initiative is the creation of a stand-by roster of Canadian human rights experts. These individuals will be available for deployment on short notice to support Canadian government, UN, and other international human rights initiatives, such as UN human rights monitoring operations.

*"I see peacebuilding as casting a life line to foundering societies struggling to end the cycle of violence, restore civility and get back on their feet. After the fighting has stopped and the immediate humanitarian needs have been addressed, there exists a brief critical period when a country sits balanced on a fulcrum. Tilted the wrong way, it retreats into conflict. But with the right help, delivered during that brief, critical window of opportunity, it will move towards peace and stability."*

Lloyd Axworthy  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 1996

