

Mennonite Central Committee Canada

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Organization's mandate/goals:

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a relief, service, community development and peace agency of the North American Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches. MCC is supported by 15 different Mennonite groups and the Brethren in Christ, as the relief, development and service arm of the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in Canada and the United States. MCC operates at both a provincial and national level in Canada. MCC Canada was founded in 1963. There are five provincial MCCs: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. They are independently incorporated, with their own boards of directors, and carry the programming and fundraising responsibilities in their province. Operations in Quebec and Atlantic Canada are the responsibility of the national office.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:**Human and Social Development -- *Eradicating poverty***

Overseas MCC is involved in development work such as education, health and agriculture, peace and justice issues, relief work and job creation, among other things. It also operates Ten Thousand Villages, which purchases crafts from developing world artisans and crafts persons for sale in North America.

In North America MCC is involved in immigration and refugee assistance, job creation, working with Native people, people with disabilities, offenders and victims of crime and more. MCC help is offered to all, regardless of race, religion or political orientation. As a relatively small agency, MCC believes it can best serve by looking for people who have fallen between the cracks of larger programs.

Consultation, Co-operation and Information Exchange -- *Coalition building*

Wherever possible, MCC works with local partners overseas. Usually these partners are local church groups, including Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other churches. Other local partners include women's groups, farmer's cooperatives and government agencies. MCC sees its role as a facilitator, not as a controller of projects and programs. In North America, MCC also works with local agencies; MCC operates few programs of its own, instead placing volunteers with existing agencies.