

been men and women from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Elections Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies based in Canada.

In 1994, Canada established the Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. The Centre offers instruction in the theoretical foundations of peacekeeping, as well as its more practical aspects.

In 1995, at the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, Canada presented a ground-breaking study on a UN rapid reaction capability. The study urged the UN and its members to develop a rapid deployment capability, which could be swiftly mobilized to respond to humanitarian crises. It also recommended the establishment of an operational-level headquarters for force deployment. The study's recommendations are already being acted upon by the UN.

Peacebuilding and human security

Canada's traditional role as a peacekeeper is today being complemented by our leadership in responding to two of the most significant challenges we face in the post-cold war world: peacebuilding, or building sustainable peace in countries prone to recurring cycles of violence; and human security, or promoting the safety and security of people.

Canada was one of the first countries to promote the concept of peacebuilding

in 1996, when it launched the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative. Because peacebuilding lies at the intersection of international security and development, the Initiative is a joint undertaking of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and CIDA. It has two objectives: to assist countries in conflict in their efforts toward peace and stability, and to promote Canadian capacity and participation in international peacebuilding initiatives.

A key goal of the Peacebuilding Initiative is to improve co-ordination among international actors. This involves strengthening the UN's capacity to prevent conflict, to respond rapidly when conflict erupts and to provide for post-conflict reconstruction.

Under the Initiative, Canada has worked to improve UN capacity to respond to these challenges. Among other things, it has contributed to the UN Trust Fund for Preventive Action and the Trust Fund for Children and Armed Conflict, and has promoted strengthening the role of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, and the conflict prevention capacity of regional organizations and the UN itself. Canada has also supported the UN Lessons Learned Unit to develop guidelines for demilitarization, demobilization and re-integration of combatants in post-conflict situations. At home, Canada has developed a national roster of Canadian civilians who are available



CIDA photo: Brian Atkinson