Canada and the United Nations

From the outset, 40 years ago, Canada has been a strong supporter and active member in the United Nations and many of its associated bodies and agencies.

The Canadian delegation at the San Francisco Conference in 1945 was led by Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King and included Justice Minister Louis Saint-Laurent and Canada's US Ambassador Lester Pearson. They were among those who pressed for a charter projecting those principles recognized as basic within national democratic societies and on which their security and stability rested.

Peacekeeping

Over the years, Canada has been very active in the peacekeeping efforts of the UN.

In the Suez crisis in 1958, the Canadian delegation, led by Lester B. Pearson, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, negotiated an arrangement which avoided armed confrontation and resulted in the formation of the first UN Emergency Force (UNEF I).

Canada is the only UN member that participated in all the 11 peacekeeping operations organized by the UN between 1945 and 1975. To date Canada has taken part in 16 of the 17 peacekeeping operations and two independent operations in Indochina and Korea.
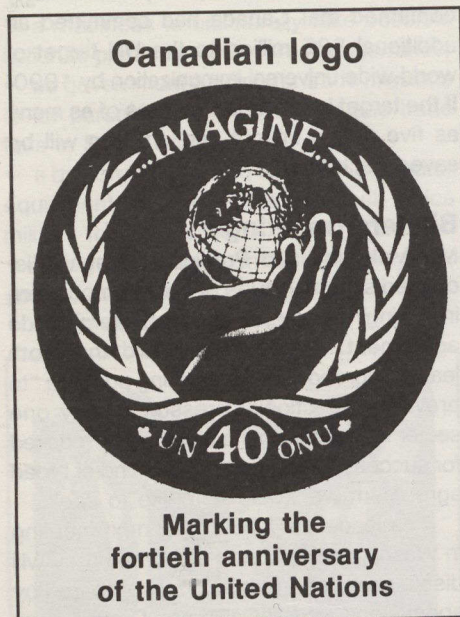
Today there are Canadian troops in the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus, in the UN force in charge of observing the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights and in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Disarmament and arms control are considered of the upmost importance, and Canada is an active participant in all UN activities related to them. A number of arms control and disarmament agreements negotiated in the UN have been signed by Canada.

As a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Canada has recommended the creation of effective guarantees against the diversion for military purposes of the materials and technology used in nuclear reactors.

Aid to children and refugees

Canada was a founding member of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and has strongly supported its programs in the areas of health, food, social services, education and other essential services. In 1984 Canada stood sixth among donors to UNICEF. In 1983-84 its contribution was $14.5 million and an additional $11 million was contributed by individual Canadians.

Canadian logo

**Marking the
fortieth anniversary
of the United Nations**

Since its founding in 1951, Canada has been a member of the administration of the High Commission for Refugees (HCR). In 1983 Canada gave $5 million to the regular program of the HCR.

Human rights

Canada has participated actively in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. As a result of a Canadian initiative in 1984, the Commission examined reports on the imposition of states of siege or emergency, which tend to threaten human rights. In addition, Canada obtained a consensus on resolutions dealing with persons detained for holding or peacefully expressing their beliefs, and on continuing efforts to improve ways to deal with, and if possible prevent, mass exodus of persons from any state as a result of violations of human rights.

A few of the UN institutions in which Canada has played a primary role in the formation and continues to actively support are: the Food and Agriculture Organization, which was founded in Quebec City (Canada is the main contributor); the International Labour Organization; the World Health Organization; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) (headquartered in Montreal); the International Telecommunications Union and the World Meteorological Organization.

Over-all Canada ranks eighth among financial contributors to the United Nations. In all, Canada contributed $355 million last year, ranging from $125 million for the World Food Program to $7 million for the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus.

As part of this year's initiatives to mark the anniversary of the United Nations, Canada has launched a number of projects and events to increase public awareness within Canada on the UN. They include seminars and public speeches on the United Nations and the pressing problems on its agenda and an anniversary publication, *Canada and the United Nations: 1945-1985*.

Participation by youth

Because 1985 is also International Youth Year, young people have been encouraged to participate in events such as the country-wide UN Model General Assembly, sponsored by the UN Association in Canada and held at ICAO headquarters in Montreal. New and specially prepared comprehensive information kits about the UN have also been sent to schools across the country.

Contributions to the UN, 1983-84

Voluntary-funded activities

	$000 (Cdn)
World Food Program (WFP)	125 000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	59 000
International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR)	21 500
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	18 400
UNICEF	14 500
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	14 000
UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	10 250
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees	8 500
Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)	1 981
UN Environment Program (UNEP)	992
Commission on Human Settlements (HABITAT)	530
UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC)	303

UN Peacekeeping

UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	7 000
UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	5 471
UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	1 324
UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)	211