



United Nations
Association in Canada

Celebrate with UNA-Canada

United Nations Day

♦♦ 24 October ♦♦

The United Nations Belongs to Everyone. It Belongs to YOU!

So many people think of the United Nations as a building in New York, or as an institution that focuses mainly on peacekeeping, humanitarian aid and bureaucratic treaties. And while these *are* essential components of the work of the UN, the United Nations is so much more. It is a robust and inter-woven system of over 50 specialized agencies, programmes, commissions, research institutes, training institutes and organizations with staff who work daily and tirelessly to fulfill the vision of the UN Charter, written by the victors of World War II.

There are so many ways in which the UN is a part of Canadian daily lives, much more than headlines or opinion without context. Many facets of our peaceful and productive lives fall within the mandate of one or other of the specialized agencies and programmes that together comprise the UN system.



Did you know:

- Every time you travel by air, your safety depends on regulations and monitoring of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), headquartered here in Montréal.
- The access and fair distribution of your information and communication technologies – from radio to television to internet to satellite-based services to video compression in cell phones – is facilitated by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which brokers agreements on technologies, services, radio-frequencies and satellite orbital positions to create a seamless global communications system that's robust, reliable and constantly evolving.
- No one needs to fear small pox again thanks to the eradication programme of the World Health Organization (WHO). Polio – which only 70 years ago was one of the most feared diseases in industrialized countries, including Canada – is also close to eradication and being simply a page in our children's history books. As of January 2012, only 3 countries remain on the polio endemic list: Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- Every time you mail a letter across an international boundary, including across borders in areas of conflict, it travels safely to its destination, thanks to the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
- Should you ever need legal advice after being discriminated against, be it for race, colour, religion, gender, age or sexual orientation, your lawyer will call upon the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that was written in 1982 to protect the basic human rights of all Canadians. Our Charter was based on the principles and standards of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was originally drafted by Canadian John P. Humphrey.

- Your works of art or inventions are protected under rules adopted through the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Perhaps most importantly, the UN saves lives, for you.



UN Photo: Logan Abassi (Haiti)

- It saves lives in developing countries by tackling threats that are immediate, pervasive and life-threatening to billions of people. Threats like unsafe drinking water, disease, hunger and extreme poverty which result in millions of deaths every year, destroy societies and fuel division, suspicion and despair. Threats that contribute either directly, or indirectly, to global insecurity – whether from war, terrorism, economic volatility, food security, diseases that travel without a passport, environmental or political security. All of these threats, and more, transcend State borders and affect every country, including Canada. Every day, the UN improves the stability and potential of your life by helping the most vulnerable and destitute.
- The UN saves lives in the wake of large-scale natural disasters – from earthquake to flood to drought to tsunamis – by rushing people, food, water, shelter, humanitarian aid, security and hope to those affected.
- And yes the UN saves Canadian lives. UN peacekeeping missions ensure that Canada does not have to unilaterally resolve conflicts abroad that affect our nation. UN peacekeeping draws on the collective economic and human resources of UN Member States, and allows Canada to share in the burden, and benefits, of protecting global peace and security.

It is often easy to forget just how much the UN contributes to, and improves your life. Every single day.

The UN is a central institution in your lives as Canadians, and as global citizens in an increasingly smaller, interconnected world. The UN is where our belief in peace and in doing unto others is measured.

Why not promote and celebrate the UN and global citizenship by bringing an international focus to your plans and activities this October 24th? Let your imagination and interests guide your creativity as you recognize and promote the contributions of the United Nations to your world, your community, your home and your life.

Sharing the Peacekeeping Burden

- Of the 116, 515 brave men and women involved in 15 peacekeeping operations around the world, Canada contributes 152 personnel (police, experts and troops) and is only 1 of 115 countries engaged in the UN's collective life-saving work in the interest of all humankind. (*Aug.2012*)
- Annual UN peacekeeping costs amount to less than 0.5% of total world military expenditures. It equates to less expenditure on peacekeeping worldwide than the City of New York budgets annually for its fire and police departments. UN peacekeeping is one of the greatest bargains of all time.

Source: United Nations

Add your voice to millions of other Canadians who support the United Nations, and in particular a positive active Canadian role in the UN. Join our global movement of “*We the Peoples*” and help us to transform lives and build hopeful futures. A better world starts with YOU.

Please become a member of the United Nations Association in Canada at: www.unac.org/supportus and/or subscribe to our e-newsletter at: www.unac.org/subscribe