

Highlights of Lester B. “Mike” Pearson’s Career in Canadian Politics and at the United Nations

⇓ = gap in the yearly chronology

Canadian Political Career	United Nations Career
<i>Born, Newton Brook, Ontario, Canada</i>	
	April 23, 1897
	⇓
Aug'28 - Joined External Affairs as First Secretary, Ottawa	1928
	⇓
1935-41 - Served in High Office of the Commissioner for Canada in London, UK	1935
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May'41 - Assistant Undersecretary of State, External Affairs, Ottawa	1941
Jun'42 - Minister-Counselor, Canadian Legation, Washington D.C.	1942
	1943
	1944
Jul'44 - Promoted to Minister Plenipotentiary, Canadian Legation, Washington D.C.	1944
	1945
Jan'45 - Title changed to "Canadian Ambassador to the USA" when Canadian Legation changed status to Embassy	1945
	1946
Oct'46 - Undersecretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa	1946
	1947
Sep10'48 - Sworn in as Secretary of State for External Affairs. As such, led Canadian delegations to the UN (1948-1956)	1948
	1949
	1950
	1951
	1952
	1953
	⇓

Participated in pre-UN international conferences on issues such as disarmament, international law and the League of Nations

1942-46 - UN Relief & Rehabilitation Administration; involved throughout its lifespan... on the committee leading to its creation, at the founding meeting (Nov'43), Chairman of Supply Committee ('43-46), Chairman of Subcommittee of Displaced Persons ('46)

May18-Jun3'43 - Member of the Canadian delegation at the Hot Springs Conference on Food and Agriculture

Jul'43-Oct'45 - Chairman, Interim Committee on Food and Agriculture

1943-46 - Canada's representative at Atomic Energy meetings. One of three men who drafted a declaration which led to the creation of a UN Commission on Atomic Energy

Aug21-Oct7'44 - Actively made Canada's views known through informal channels to the exclusive Dumbarton Oaks Conference (four great nations discussing concrete plans to establish a formal United Nations organization)

Apr25-Jun26'45 - Senior advisor on Canadian delegation at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco which wrote and adopted the UN Charter

Oct16-Nov1'45 - Chairman of the 1st and founding meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, Québec City, Canada

Oct24'45 - UN officially comes into existence after permanent members & majority of other signatories ratified the Charter

May-Nov'47 - Chairman, UNGA Special Committee on Palestine which led to the creation of the State of Israel

Jun'50 - Outbreak of Korean War; LBP facilitated Canada's prompt agreement to a UN peacekeeping force

1952-53 - President of the UN General Assembly (7th Session), main focus was to resolve Korean conflict, ultimately resulted in armistice

Nov'53 - While UNGA President, sparked a process ultimately leading to the UN accepting new member countries in Dec'55, making it a more universal organization

