



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les nations unies

PRESS RELEASE

UNA-Canada Invites Canadians to Celebrate the UN 60th Anniversary

Ottawa 2005 September 7th - The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada), in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is pleased to announce public activities across Canada to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in 1945. Following the most destructive war in human history, the Allies adopted the term “United Nations” to define a worldwide body of nations joined in the pursuit of peace and prosperity for all.

“The United Nations remains a symbol of hope for a better world and the only place where the nations of the world can gather to talk to one another. The sixtieth anniversary is a good time to reflect on and celebrate its accomplishments and to look at the challenges ahead” (Kathryn White, UNA-Canada Executive Director)

What is Canada’s role in the UN and international development? UNA-Canada will host a series of public engagement events to help Canadians celebrate the UN’s 60th Anniversary. The Association will host three roundtables or townhalls on international development issues in Montreal, Hamilton and Winnipeg. Interested Canadians, civil society representatives and subject matter experts will have the opportunity to engage in knowledge sharing and exchange, to learn about and contribute to the Canadian dialogue on international development.

Who are our models of global citizenry? Canadians from coast to coast to coast will be encouraged to participate in the *Global Citizen Challenge* - an invitation for Canadians to nominate their fellow Canadians who exemplify the concept of a *global citizen*. Nominated individuals will be recognized for their contribution and receive a *Global Citizens Certificate* to mark the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations and Canada’s ongoing contributions to our shared global community. A *Global Citizens* nomination form will be widely circulated across Canada, and be available at UNA-Canada’s website, www.unac.org/UN60.

How do we reach out to youth? UNA-Canada will also be developing education resources for youth in formal and non-formal education settings to encourage them to celebrate our past and build our global future.

UNA-Canada is a 13,000 people strong, membership-based, charitable organization supporting a network of fifteen volunteer branches and a professional staff team based in Ottawa. Celebrating its 60th anniversary next year- along with the UN itself - its mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues which affect us all.

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