



**United Nations Association in Canada**  
**Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies**

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**Canada and the UN Security Council: The Morning After**

Like all Canadians, we share the enormous disappointment in the outcome of Canada's campaign for a seat on the most influential club in the world, the UN Security Council. As a membership organization with 20 000 supporters, UNA-Canada has sometimes been framed as the Canadian 'peoples movement for the UN.' While our members are aware of the challenges of the organization, they make it clear to us that the UN is still the best option, even taking flaws into consideration. The approval rating that Canadians give to the UN is consistently high. Across political lines they care about the UN and, of course, they care about how Canada is seen in the world.

But today is a very sad day for every Canadian because, as with any vote, we have heard from our international colleagues and the news is not good. Prime Minister Harper's government will be disappointed with the outcome, as would any government which campaigned hard in hopes of holding the Security Council seat once again. They understand, notwithstanding the many frustrations of the Security Council and the veto powers of the five permanent members, the many advantages to Canada the holding of this seat means.

Prime Minister Harper, in the high-road response to this decision, will not denigrate the ongoing importance of the UN. We have seen and heard both him and his Foreign Minister tell the Canadian/UN story with passion in the past weeks. He will instead be looking to the future and how Canada can continue to project a foreign policy where innovation, leadership and good will are the hall marks.

The best contributions we have made to the UN, have been imagination and its correlate, innovation. Now is the time for Prime Minister Harper to rally Canadians by looking forward. He could start by sharing the shortlist of issues we would have taken to the UNSC: those issues remain of deep concern and require attention. Canada's pressing issues, requiring attention though the UN, remain as important at the end of today as they did yesterday.

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