

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING: CANADA AND THE WORLD

A Teacher's Handbook



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Introduction

This teachers' handbook on Canadian Contributions to Peacekeeping was created by the United Nations Association in Canada as part of the 50th Anniversary of UN Peacekeeping project. The objective of the guide is to allow teachers to bring this information about peacekeeping to students in an interactive and interesting manner. Students will learn about the origin of peacekeeping, how it evolved, and consequently how the Canadian contribution to peacekeeping changed over the last 50 years.

The four lesson plans suggested in this guide have been designed to address key issues related to Canadian contributions to UN peacekeeping and to inform students about this important part of Canadian identity. It is hoped that the discussions that will be generated by the different activities will encourage students to learn more about this topic and to become more involved in Canadian politics. More in-depth knowledge of peacekeeping acquired by today's students could contribute to a deeper understanding of political decisions made by our government, and to the development of better global citizens in the future.

The guide is designed to provide teachers with background information related to Canada's contribution to UN peacekeeping and to offer a variety of activities that can be performed within classrooms, depending on the course within which the topic is taught and the teacher's teaching style. Instruction methods proposed in the recommended activities include active learning, discussion, group work, role-playing and research projects.

The resource is meant to be adapted in a way that tailors to the specific objectives of provincial curricula, while being interesting and beneficial to students. The topic can be inserted into geography, history, social sciences or politics classes in Grade 10 to 12 or Secondary 5. Specific links to each suitable course are provided by province at the end of this guide. The topic is also recommended for Second Language courses, in which topics explored can vary widely. The activities provided in this guide are interactive and can represent great opportunities for students to express their opinions in a variety of formats.

Each of the four suggested lesson plans are composed systematically to include an extensive information section that will help teachers build their class presentation. This is followed by some discussion questions that will engage students in the topics and a list of suggested activities that the teacher will be free to carry out or not. Objectives and requirements as well as a detailed procedure of the activities are provided at the beginning of each suggested activity. Evaluation tools have not been included in the handbook because of the challenges related to tailoring it to each province's and course's specific objectives. There is enough flexibility in the resource and with the different activities to allow teachers to evaluate students as desired, without necessarily having to use traditional methods such as exams. Finally, a short bibliography has been compiled at the end of each lesson plan to allow easy access to key web resources providing more information on the topics addressed within the section. A glossary as well as a more extensive annotated bibliography can also be found at the end of the resource.

While the structure of this guide is systematic, the way in which teachers decide to use it can vary greatly. Teacher presentation followed by a short discussion and an activity is only one way to use the guide. The background information could be distributed to students for self-learning or used as exam material. Activities can be performed individually or in groups. This flexibility is meant to encourage more teachers to introduce peacekeeping as a topic covered in their classes and to make more students aware of this Canadian reality.

UNA-Canada hopes that teachers will find the material useful and welcomes your comments and suggestions.

UNA-Canada is a national charitable organization having recently celebrated its landmark 60th anniversary. As a ‘think and do’ organization, UNA-Canada supports a network of 17 volunteer branches with a National office in Ottawa and a Western professional office in Vancouver. Our mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues which affect us all, through innovative projects, policy research, and on-going communications with Canadians.

For more information contact:

United Nations Association in Canada

300 – 309 Cooper St.

Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0G5

Tel: 613-232-5751

Email: info@unac.org

Website: <http://www.unac.org>

Emily Schroeder, *Project Officer*

50th Anniversary of UN Peacekeeping, UNA-Canada