



MOTION

Committee Date: May 1, 2013

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. McHATTIE.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Establish a National Department of Peace

WHEREAS during the course of the 20th century, more than 100,000,000 people perished in wars, and continuing into the 21st century, violence seems to be an overarching theme in the world;

AND WHEREAS such conflict is often unquestionably seen as a reflection of the human condition;

AND WHEREAS the citizens of Hamilton have been, and are, adversely affected by war and violence, whether through the personal loss of loved ones, or through the diversion of public resources that could be used to promote and support healthier and more secure lives;

AND WHEREAS the City of Hamilton has declared itself a nuclear weapons-free zone;

AND WHEREAS the City of Hamilton is a member of the international organization Mayors for Peace;

AND WHEREAS the proposed Federal Department of Peace will benefit the City of Hamilton by working to support existing programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and frequency of incidents related to domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence, gang violence, gun violence, and hate crimes;

AND WHEREAS promoting a culture of peace has been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through passage of a resolution declaring an International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children 2001- 2010;

AND WHEREAS it is our collective responsibility to create institutions that foster the development of a culture of peace in our neighbourhoods, city and nation;

AND WHEREAS communities across North America have recently experienced tragic incidents of extreme violence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton hereby re-affirms its support for legislation to establish a Federal Department of Peace, and urges our members of Parliament to support such legislation;
- (b) That this Department of Peace work collaboratively with the Department of National Defense to reduce violence domestically and promote peace internationally;
- (c) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the local Members of Parliament.

Background

In the current context of ongoing violence and conflict, domestically and internationally, it seems timely and appropriate to urge our national government to develop a coordinated plan to bring a greater degree of peace to our communities, wherever it has the authority and influence to do so. A Minister responsible for such a department could advance an agenda for peace by supporting and establishing activities that promote a culture of non-violence in Canada and the world.

Drawing inspiration from similar initiatives in the US, Australia and over 30 other countries, such a Minister's mandate could include objectives such as:

- Developing early detection and rapid response processes to deal with emerging conflicts,
- Leading international efforts to abolish nuclear, biological, chemical weapons, to reduce conventional weapon arsenals and to ban the weaponization of space
- Implementing the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1999) to safeguard human rights and enhance the security of persons and their communities
- Implementing UN Resolution 1325 on the key role played by women in the wide spectrum of peacebuilding work
- Establishing a Civilian Peace Service that, with other training organizations, will recruit, train and accredit peace professionals and volunteers to work at home and abroad,
- Promoting nonviolent community-building programs such as Restorative Justice, Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Supporting the development of peace education at all levels including post-secondary peace and conflict studies.

The Canadian Department of Peace Initiative is a voluntary organization that has been working toward establishing a national department of peace, along with many individuals and organizations including peace and justice organizations, faith communities, artists, choirs, healthcare professionals, teachers, service clubs, cultural communities, businesses, among others. Citizens in over 30 countries are currently promoting departments of peace. In February 2012 Hamilton hosted the first of several well attended community consultations held across Canada to consider Bill C-373 An Act to establish the Department of Peace.

Individuals supporting a department of peace include:

- Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War
- Hon. Lloyd Axworthy , O.C., President, University of Manitoba
- The Late Dr. Paz Buttedahl , Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC
- The Late Marion Dewar Former Mayor of Ottawa
- The Late Muriel Duckworth, CM, Co-Founder, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

- Senator Mobina Jaffer, Promoter of human rights and women's roles in peace and security
- Gerald Caplan, Expert, Genocide Prevention
- Professor Graeme MacQueen, [McMaster University \(Hans Sinn\)](#)
- Hon. Alexa McDonough, Former MP and Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada
- Richard. J. Moore, President, MDR Conflict Resolution Inc., Ottawa
- Mike Nickerson, Sustainability Project (Ontario)
- Professor Glenn D. Paige, Author, Nonkilling Global Political Science, [Center for Global Nonviolence, Hawaii](#)
- Navin M. Parekh, CM, Former President, Canadian Ethnocultural Council
- Senator Douglas Roche, O.C., Author and Nuclear Disarmament activist
- Senator Nancy Ruth
- Daniel Schugurensky, Professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto
- Professor John Sigler, Group of 78, Former director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, [Carleton University, Ottawa](#)
- Stephen Staples, Director, Rideau Institute and [Ceasefire.ca](#)
- Robert Stewart, [Canadian Centre for Teaching Peace](#)
- Murray Thomson, O.C. Co-Founder, [Project Ploughshares](#)
- Professor John E. Trent, [Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa](#)
- Senator Nancy Ruth
- Hon. Flora Macdonald, Former MP and Leader, Conservative Party of Canada
- Edward Lee, Former Ambassador and Legal Advisor, Foreign Affairs Canada
- Dr. Anne Pearson, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

Organizations supporting a department of peace include:

- Anglican Church of Canada-Diocese of Ottawa
- [Beyond War Canada](#)
- [Canadian Federation of University Women](#)
- [Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution](#)
- Muslim Coordinating Council of the National Capital Region
- [Canadian Peace Alliance](#)
- [Canadian Pugwash Group](#)
- [Canadian Voice of Women for Peace](#)
- Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- [Center for Global Nonviolence, Honolulu, Hawaii](#)
- [Cercle de Paix — Circle of Peace](#)
- [Civilian Peace Service Canada](#)
- [Conscience Canada](#)
- [Council of Canadians](#)
- Cultivons La Paix
- [The Dalai Lama Foundation Canada](#)
- [Educating for Peace](#)

- Hiroshima Day Coalition
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada
- Mennonite Church Canada
- Nobel Women's Peace Initiative
- Nonviolent Peaceforce Canada
- Physicians for Global Survival
- Project Ploughshares – Ottawa
- Science for Peace
- Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUJS)
- United Church of Canada
- Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (Ontario/Québec Region)
- The XXV Congress of the World Federalist Movement, (Geneva, August 31 2007, adopted unanimously)
- World Federalist Movement — Canada
- World Conference on Religions for Peace