Conflict Prevention in Canada
A Survey of Canadian Conflict Prevention Professionals
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About the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee
The Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC) is a network of Canadian non-governmental organizations and institutions, academics and other individuals from a wide range of sectors, including humanitarian assistance, development, conflict resolution, peace, faith communities, and human rights. CPCC has been working since 1994 to formulate policy and operational directions for Canadian NGOs involved in peacebuilding in collaboration with other relevant actors. The network is engaged in a process of dialogue with Canadian government agencies and others to strengthen NGO and civil society input into peacebuilding policy and program development.

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Table of Contents

Introduction and Acknowledgements

Conflict prevention is an important issue area in this era of globalization and terrorism. The United nations and other international and regional bodies are active in many regions in conflict around the world, and individual countries, including Canada, remain committed to peace operations as well as conflict prevention initiatives internationally. Given the importance of conflict prevention work, and in preparation for the upcoming UN Conference on the Role of Civil Society in Conflict Prevention, the Canadian Conflict Prevention Initiative (CCPI), sought to identify organizations and individuals in Canada active in the area, their activities, interests and needs, as well as how a conflict prevention network would be of assistance to their work. To this end a survey was carried out, reaching stakeholders in a variety of sectors, including government, academia, and non-governmental organizations. In total, there were fifty-two respondents, many of whom provided information on behalf of larger organizations.

This report represents a presentation and analysis of the results of this survey, as well as policy and programming recommendations related to the findings.

<u>Section 1</u> Background, Key Findings and Recommendations

<u>1.1 Background to the Survey</u>
In June 2001, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called for the 'mainstreaming' of conflict prevention within the UN system, urging international and regional organizations to work more closely with civil society. The underlying premise of the Secretary General's statement is that conflict prevention can only be successful if it rests on the coordination of activities between the UN, regional organizations, states and civil society, capitalizing on each group's expertise and skill.

In response to this call for more concerted action, the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP) initiated a process of transnational networking to address the challenge of more effective civil society involvement in conflict prevention. Since 2001, the ECCP has collaborated with both regional and international partners to work toward a global strategy of research, dialogue and consultation leading to seven regional conferences and culminating in a major international conference at UN headquarters in 2005. The objective of this process is to increase the effectiveness of conflict prevention by improving coordination and interaction between civil society, the UN, regional organizations and governments.

In response to this process, as well as to build civil society conflict prevention capacity within Canada, the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC) and its Conflict Prevention Working Group have established a Canadian Conflict Prevention Initiative (CCPI). In the lead-up to the UN Conference on the Role of Civil Society and NGOs in Conflict Prevention, the CCPI's first task has been to determine the range of actors engaged in conflict prevention in Canada and to identify the most common themes that are relevant to this work.

<u>Key Findings</u>

<u>1.2 Target Groups</u>
One of the main objectives of this survey was to identify stakeholders in Canada who are engaged in, or plan to become engaged in, conflict prevention activities, this objective was clearly met with many respondents expressing interest in continued involvement with the CCPI. Within the context of this survey the perceived need for continued, expanded and frank dialogue was a recurring theme. Using the contact list as a starting point, this survey will enable the CCPI to address this concern.

<u>1.3 Integral Themes</u>
Concepts of conflict prevention may be specific and include such things as mediation and diplomacy, or the definition can be expanded to include a range of activities designed to alleviate some of the problems that can lead to conflict.

These include resource allocation, corruption, ethnic or territorial disputes and economic inequality, just to name a few. This duality was reflected to some extent by participation in this survey. Organizations such as One Sky are engaged in activities that would likely not fall under traditional definitions of conflict prevention, while other organizations that we may have expected a response from, including the United Church of Canada, declined to participate, saying they are not directly engaged in conflict prevention activities. Such reactions suggest that while a broader definition may be more in use than in recent years, there are still those who view such programming in traditional terms. This may be one area that the CCPI can strengthen and assist conflict prevention networks in Canada.

Another observed trend is the breadth of activities in which Canadians are involved. Programming by Canadian organizations reaches every corner of the globe and encompasses both direct conflict prevention and management activities and involvement in initiatives that address structural, or 'root', issues that have been increasingly seen to contribute to conflict. Examples of this kind of approach include aid programs as undertaken by agencies such as CIDA, training programs that teach war-affected youth specific skills, work to ensure the inclusion of women in the economic, social and political development of a region, and work relating to natural resource and environmental management. What this indicates is that Canada and Canadians continue to be involved in the global community and that there is sustained and continuing interest in remaining involved. This bodes well for the future of the CCPI and other such initiatives.

A third theme that has emerged from this survey is the optimism with which the majority of organizations and individuals view the possible role of Canada and Canadians in conflict prevention. Many respondents suggested that Canada has been heading in the right direction, opting for a comprehensive and holistic approach that includes developmental as well as diplomatic, operational, and both military and peacekeeping work. There were also several comments on the historical traditions in Canada related to former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson's peacekeeping initiatives, the focus on human security and Canada's support for international law and institutions such as the United Nations as being an excellent foundation upon which to build current and future conflict prevention and management activities. People seem to believe that not only are there things that can be done, but that Canada and Canadians are ready, willing and able to do them.

While the overwhelming majority of comments seemed to be positive in nature, there were a few criticisms of Canada's work in the area, including a suggestion that foreign aid should be increased to 0.75% of GDP from its current level of 0.25%. Another suggestion was that Canada restructure its military to become peacekeeping specialists, perhaps indicating a suggestion that military operations like the one currently underway in Afghanistan should not be the focus of the Canadian government in the future. Additionally, one respondent

raised the idea that the Canadian government should establish a federal Department of Peace to promote peaceful resolution and peace education globally, hinting that this is an area that is not adequately addressed by current structures. Basically, however, the greatest need expressed by the respondents was a need to interact, share information, and for Canada to offer and receive support for its conflict prevention efforts within the rules-based international order as defined by the UN and international law.

Recommendations

1.4 Policy and Programming Recommendations

Based on the responses obtained from the survey and from further analysis of the results, the authors recommend to the CCPI:

- That it provide a forum for conflict prevention and management practitioners to share information, network and offer mutual assistance. This may include email networks, conference/consultation opportunities and an information databank providing sources and direction;

- That it maintain a focus on human security, development and equality. Continue the holistic approach to conflict prevention;

To the Canadian Government:

- That it strengthen international and regional institutions, support international law and resist attempts by those countries who attempt to use such fora for the promotion of national interests to the detriment of others;

- That it encourage greater collaboration between officials and members of the NGO and academic communities, perhaps through a secretariat or some other form of institution;

- That it continue to focus on education and empowerment programs that enable local actors to take responsibility and credit for local successes, provide alternatives to people affected by conflict, and provide youth with an alternative vision of the future;

General recommendations:

- Facilitating connections between specialized institutions, such as those engaged in early warning systems, and others would be particularly beneficial by expanding awareness of early warning, as well as linking organizations which could be helpful to each other;

- Fundraising needs to be looked at more closely in order to determine whether a fundraising mechanism focussed on conflict prevention would be worthwhile;

- Further input should be sought from the federal government, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Defence. None of the many people contacted at these departments responded to the survey by the deadline but the positions and work of these organizations is a major component of Canadian conflict prevention;

- The media is another sector which was not represented in this survey but which should be utilized in the future. Direct engagement with media is one important way to disseminate information and include the population at large in the work being carried out by Canadians;

- Answers to the question: *What role Canada and/or Canadians can/should play in international conflict prevention?* were somewhat inconsistent. Many important stakeholders were reluctant to answer the question. While broad directions are visible in the responses received, it will be important to keep in mind when determining policy directions that some organizations and departments have not been heard on this issue.

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[1] McKillip suggests that key informant surveys are useful for providing information on wider community needs and that a basic sample of 10-15 such informants is often adequate for this type of survey (81-82). In order to maximize relevance, this survey combined key stakeholder surveys with client surveys and reached 52 individual stakeholders. This meets the response rate requirement as suggested by McKillip, and met the desired response rate of 20%.

Section 2 Rationale and Methodology

2.1 Rationale

The survey of Canadian conflict prevention practitioners was carried out to provide information about Canadian individuals and organizations involved in conflict prevention, their interests and their needs. The results will be used to assist the CCPI in developing its mandate, prioritizing activities, and identifying and reaching its target audience. The survey also seeks to define the Canadian content of the conflict prevention agenda. This includes identification of potential contributions to the upcoming UN conference on "The Role of Civil Society in Conflict Prevention" and an invitation for respondents to participate in the preparation process. The survey was undertaken from July to September 2003, with the final report being completed prior to the Canadian Peacebuilding and Human Security Consultations in October.

2.2 Definitions
Conflict Prevention

Conflict prevention, in its broadest sense, refers to activities and measures that reduce the likelihood of tensions or disputes between and within states, and among interest or identity groups that could lead to large-scale violence. Conflict prevention activities may be those that address a conflict directly, such as mediation, preventive diplomacy, people to people contacts, advocacy, peacekeeping and negotiation efforts. Prevention may also take the form of responses to structural factors that may contribute to future and current conflict.

Such structural efforts include equitable economic and social development, governance reform, arms control, and security sector reform. Conflict prevention also includes activities that enhance the conflict-sensitivity of aid and trade, such as the use of peace and conflict impact assessments, and may take place in the short or long term. Conflict prevention may be carried out by non-governmental organizations, government departments, international institutions, and private sector firms and is supported by the work of academics and think tanks who carry out research into best practices and emerging trends. While ambitious and broad, this definition is consistent with current research and policies relating to conflict prevention and allows an inclusive and holistic picture of the conflict prevention community.

2.3 Survey Objectives
1. To identify organizations and individuals in Canada who are currently involved in conflict prevention activities or who are likely to become involved in the future.
2. To provide inputs for the CPCC database of organizations and individuals.
3. To identify Canadian themes and issues in international conflict prevention work.
4. To identify the current needs of the conflict prevention community in Canada.

2.4 Methodology

This project consisted of both an email survey and follow-up interviews which provided both quantitative, general information, and qualitative, specific data. A short email questionnaire was sent to stakeholders within a variety of relevant non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and government departments. Survey recipients included practitioners, activists, academics, businesspeople and government officials who are actively engaged in issues of peace and conflict, either directly or from a humanitarian relief, development, social/economic equity, justice, governance, educational or other angle. These target groups and individuals were identified using the CPCC database, the Country Indicators for Foreign Policy database, internet research and individual referrals. A list of contacts is included as Annex 1.

The questionnaire included a range of questions encompassing both the general areas of involvement and the specific details of work being conducted in the field. Additionally, it solicited not only the institutional affiliation of the respondent, but also their core interests and activities, as well as ways in which they would be interested in participating in the Canadian Conflict Prevention Initiative. The quantitative portion of the survey addresses Objectives 1 and 2, as identified above. The qualitative component of the questionnaire addresses the third and fourth objectives, including the identification of Canadian themes and issues in international conflict prevention work, and of the current needs of the conflict prevention community in Canada. The survey is included as Annex 2.

Initially, the survey was emailed to approximately 300 individuals and organizations, with an additional 100 individuals contacted through a second wave of emails. A reminder email was sent to each respondent within ten days of the survey being sent. Key informants were also given the opportunity to respond to the survey over the phone, in conjunction with in-depth interviews. The key informants who were interviewed over the phone included individuals from as many of the target sectors as possible. [3]

Section 3 Quantitative Results

3.1 Respondents: Who are they?
This survey targeted a wide range of actors in 13 specific categories. Respondents self-identified in 11 of these 13 categories, with no responses collected from the media or college categories.
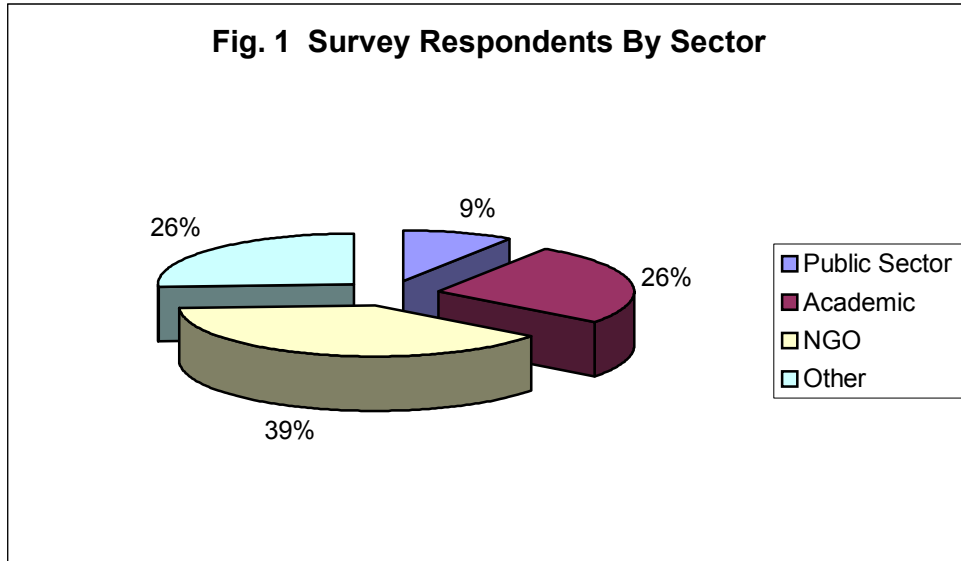
Fig. 1 – Note; the original 13 specific categories have been collapsed into four broad areas in order to provide a general overview of the responsive sectors and to increase ease of presentation. 'Public Sector' includes representatives from government, 'Academic' includes universities, colleges and other educational institutions, 'NGO' includes faith-based organizations, full-service NGOs and specialized NGOs, and 'Other' is comprised of independent consultants, business, think tank, media, cooperatives and others.

As noted in Figure 1 above, the response from the NGO community (comprising both specialized and full-service NGOs, as well as faith-based organizations) was particularly strong. The academic sector response rate was also very good, comprising one quarter of all responses. NGOs, including full-service NGOs, faith-based organizations, and specialized NGOs, represented over two-thirds of the respondents, indicating a clear interest among this stakeholder group in the area of a conflict prevention network.

Table 1

Institutional Affiliation	
Government	5
University	13
College	0
Other Educational Institution	2
Think Tank	3
Business	2
Cooperative	0
Faith-based Organization	3
Full Service NGO	4
Specialized NGO	14
Media	0
Independent Consultant	3
Other	6

Table 1 summarizes the real response rates by specific sector. For ease of reporting and broad division, the categories were collapsed into the four broad areas of Academic, Public Sector, Nongovernmental Organization and Other as depicted in figure 1 above.

Response rates from government, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of National Defence, which did not return any completed surveys, were low, as was the response from the business community and the media. Future efforts should be made to include these stakeholders in further conflict prevention activities, as there is the potential for very important work to be carried out in this area. Ultimately, the survey managed to reach almost the full spectrum of individuals engaged in conflict prevention activities.

3.2 Areas of Work

The work conducted by survey respondents covers a wide range of conflict prevention activities, from specific conflict-related initiatives, to broader programming designed to address the structural contributors to conflict.

Fig. 2 Areas of Work
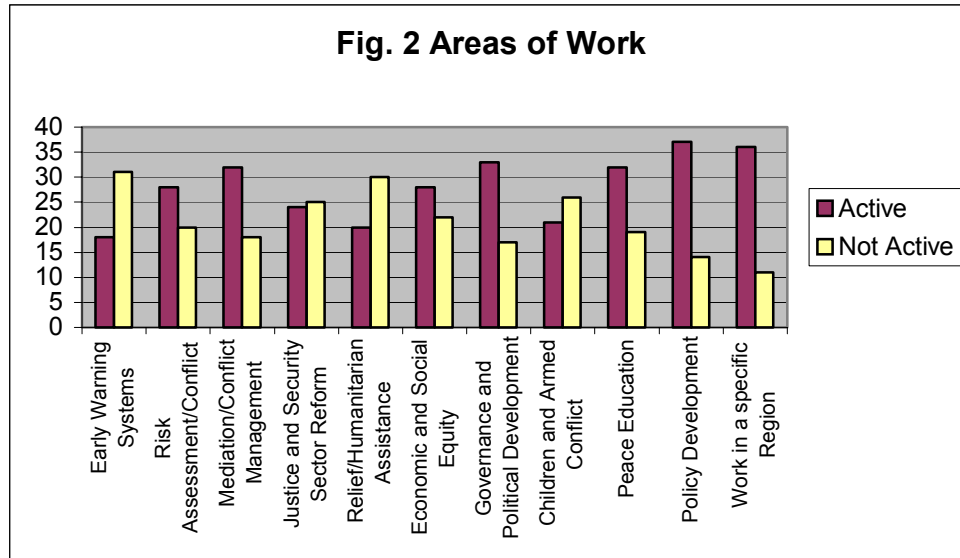
Fig. 2 – For simplification purposes responses have been collapsed into Active (including 'very' and 'somewhat' active responses) and Not Active (comprising 'hardly' and 'not' active responses)

More than half of those surveyed indicated that policy development was an important component of their work, as was work relating to specific regions. It is apparent that the majority of organizations in the sample are predominantly engaged in specific regions of the world, rather than having a truly global reach. This suggests that there may be ways in which such work among several organizations could be linked in order to increase effectiveness and capitalize on specific expertise. Most of the respondents indicated only two or three regions as being a focus of their work, which, while not as large in scope as global programming, is still quite broad.

Fig. 3 Involvement by Region
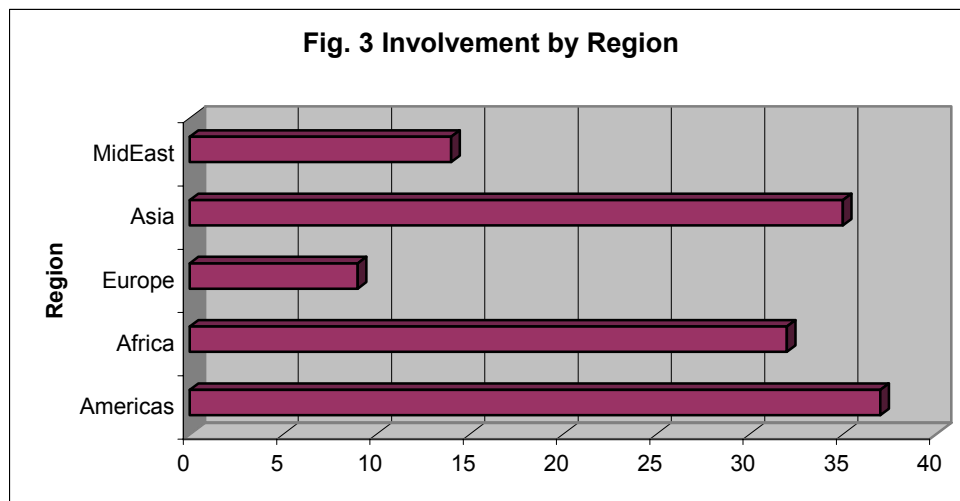
Three general geographic areas were indicated as being most popular in terms of involvement. Asia, Africa and the Americas (encompassing North America, South America and Latin America), far outpaced other geographic regions; each

being cited by more than half of respondents as a focus of their work. This finding is not unexpected, given the political, military, social and economic factors at work in these areas. Examples such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Indonesia and Afghanistan demonstrate why these geographic regions top the list. These are areas where there is ongoing conflict, where a wide range of development activities are underway, as well as places where Canada or the international community are significantly involved. This regional focus was reinforced by information gathered through qualitative questions on specific work currently underway, including country and region-specific initiatives. Such examples can be found in section 3.1.

Table 2

Involvement by Region (Raw data)	
Oceania	4
South America	8
Latin America	19
North America	10
Europe	9
Africa	32
Asia	18
South East Asia	17
Middle East	14

Table 3

Areas of Work	Very Active	Somewhat Active	Hardly Active	N/A
Early Warning Systems	5	13	9	22
Risk Assessment/Conflict Analysis	10	18	9	11
Mediation/Conflict Management	14	18	5	13
Justice and Security Sector Reform	12	12	3	22
Relief/Humanitarian Assistance	5	15	5	25
Economic and Social Equity	13	15	4	18
Governance and Political Development	17	16	3	14
Children and Armed Conflict	10	11	8	18
Peace Education	20	12	4	15
Policy Development	18	19	6	8
Work in a Specific Region	23	13	4	7

Oceania	South America	Latin America	North America	Africa
4	8	19	10	32
Europe	Asia	Southeast Asia	Middle East	
9	18	17	14	

Policy development, work in specific regions and governance and political development are considered to be major components of current conflict prevention work in Canada, with more than half of all respondents indicating

16

some activity in these areas. In other areas, such as justice and security sector reform, responses were almost evenly split between those who are reasonably involved and those that are hardly or not at all involved. Of the responses submitted to the question: *In which of the following areas of work are you, or do you intend to be, active*? 25 individuals or groups indicated very little or no involvement in justice and security sector reform, while 23 respondents indicated that they were involved in this aspect of conflict prevention to a considerable extent. Regarding children and armed conflict, 26 respondents were involved to little or no extent and 20 were significantly engaged in related programming. The data suggests that while certain areas are clearly a focus for many groups and organizations, some specialized issues belong to select organizations. Some activities, such as policy development and regional-specific programming, cross institutional and organizational boundaries and involve a variety of actors.

3.3 Interest in a Conflict Prevention Network
Part of the purpose of this survey was to determine potential directions to guide the Canadian Conflict Prevention Initiative. To this end, respondents were asked to comment on what types of CCPI-led activities they would find interesting and helpful. *Policy dialogue, research and network building* were cited as the most interesting possible activities, with several individuals also commenting on the potential usefulness of networking and dialogue between practitioners in their responses to the qualitative questions.

Fig. 5 Interest in a Conflict Prevention Network: Very Interesting

Legend:
- Network Building
- Policy Dialogue
- Research
- Training
- Wider Outreach
- Fundraising
- Lobbying/Advocacy
- Resource Development

Values: 16%, 21%, 18%, 11%, 8%, 7%, 9%, 10%
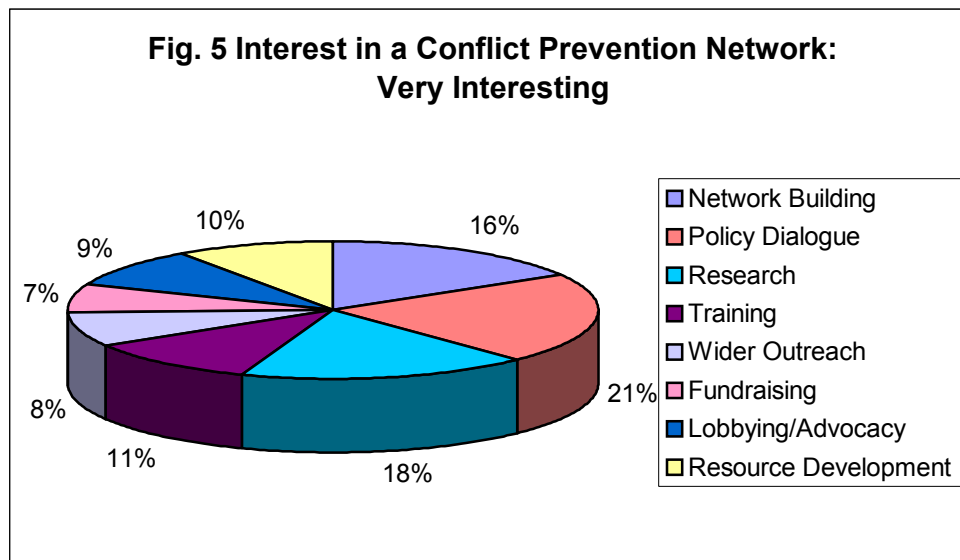
Survey respondents were also asked to indicate ways in which they would be interested in participating in the activities of the CCPI. They were given nine specific options which have been collapsed into the six broad categories seen in figure 6 below.

Fig 6 Interest in Participating in the CCPI
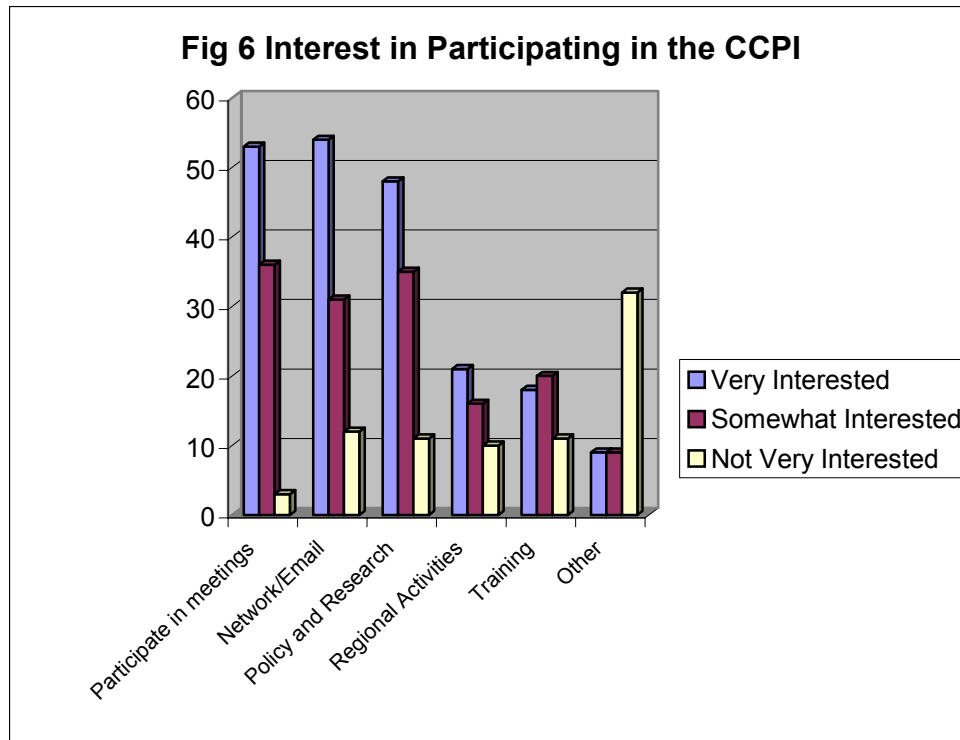
For ease of analysis and presentation, the nine issue areas were collapsed into the six categories above as follows: Participation in Meetings includes both Canadian and international meetings and conferences, Network/Email includes participation in network building and email listservs, Policy and Research encompasses both policy development and research initiatives, Regional activities and Training remained independent categories, and the Other category includes fundraising and other suggestions, as these received limited indications of interest.

As Figures 5 and 6 indicate, there was a clear interest in participatory involvement and dialogue activities, including meetings and conferences, email updates and networking opportunities, and policy and research work. Training and fundraising were activities indicated to be not very interesting to the large majority of respondents. In essence, respondents want the CCPI to do more in terms of information and connectivity but may be unwilling to work actively on fundraising activities. One possible reason for this that was suggested in one of the telephone interviews was that individuals may have been unsure about whether 'fundraising' meant contributing, or soliciting contributions. Additionally, it should be noted that there were a few responses that indicated great interest in fundraising activities. Perhaps more consultation on this question would be helpful in determining the role fundraising can play in the work of the CCPI. These responses will be very helpful in determining the direction of the CCPI. Complete raw responses are included in Table 4 below.

Table 4

Activity	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not interested
Canadian Meetings	27	19	3
International Meetings/Conferences	26	17	6
Training	18	20	11
Regional Activities	21	16	10
Network Building	22	18	8
Email listserv	32	13	4
Fundraising	7	9	32
Policy Development	24	18	6
Research Initiatives	24	17	5
Other	2	0	0

3.4 Section Summary

The quantitative portion of the survey revealed that the response among NGOs was greater than among the public sector. The response from academic individuals and institutions was also very good. Also apparent in these results was the fact that more than half of respondents are, or intend to be, active in policy development, regional activities, governance and political development, peace education and mediation and conflict management.

Other findings:
- There was significant interest in activities such as network building, policy dialogue, and research.
- There was very little general interest in fundraising.
- Respondents were most interested in participating through email listservs, meetings and conferences, policy development, research initiatives and networking.

The findings provide a general overview of the state of the discipline in Canada, meeting the objectives of identifying Canadian themes and issues in international conflict prevention, identifying the current needs of the conflict prevention community, and discovering who is involved in conflict prevention in Canada. Overall, the results of this section could be useful in influencing the mandate of the CCPI.

Section 4 Qualitative Results

The qualitative component of the questionnaire addresses the third and fourth objectives -- the identification of Canadian themes and issues in international conflict prevention and of current needs within the Canadian conflict prevention community. In order to collect this information, five open-ended questions were included in the email survey and further questioning with interview subjects was used to elicit additional detail. A copy of the survey is included as Annex 2.

4.1 Specific Initiatives and Activities

The range of organizations that took part in this survey hints at the breadth of conflict prevention activities in which Canadians are involved. Large organizations such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) take part in a complete spectrum of development and conflict prevention activities. At the other end of the spectrum, small non-governmental organizations (NGOs) often specialize in a limited number of programs. One Sky, for instance, focuses on work in Sierra Leone.

One of the most important recurring themes is the quantity of grassroots work, local-level programs, and empowering programming underway with the support of Canadian institutions and individuals. Many of these organizations suggest that their own role is primarily one of support for 'home-grown' solutions and initiatives. In essence, many respondents suggest that the solutions to ongoing conflict are more likely to be found among those involved in the conflict, and often these solutions require outside assistance to be realized. Education and development were activities that appeared frequently in the responses and were often linked by respondents, including the Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace. 'Education' was used in reference to not only peace education, but also training and development efforts. Such linkages indicate that the concept of 'conflict prevention', particularly for certain organizations, has broadened to include structural issues as described in the definition of conflict prevention at the beginning of this report. At the same time, several organizations involved in such broad-based work declined to complete the questionnaire, expressing the opinion that their activities do not fall under the banner of conflict prevention. Specific organizations that expressed this opinion were Médecins sans frontières and the United Church of Canada.

Defining conflict prevention becomes difficult when organizational mandates and preferences are taken into account. While some of the activities that the definition used by this report includes are proximate (i.e. mediation, good offices, diplomacy etc.) and have an immediate direct impact on conflict, other initiatives that address structural concerns are also regarded by many as part of a broad approach to conflict prevention. The authors feel the disparity between organizational definitions of conflict prevention, and not an actual lack of such work, could account for some organizations declining to participate in the survey.

4.2 Selected Respondent Profiles

One Sky – The Canadian Institute of Sustainable Development

One Sky, a full-service NGO based in Smithers, British Columbia operates in the area of human security and the environment, according to the principle that the links between human health, the economy and a sustainable environment are the foundation of a sustainable society. One Sky is actively engaged in Sierra Leone where they are involved in grassroots projects that provide vocational training to war affected youth. This includes organic farming, pedal-powered technologies and bike mechanics. One Sky is also involved in environmental education and a women's micro-credit program. As a result of their work in Sierra Leone, One Sky has recently launched a campaign to end the trade in conflict diamonds, in partnership with Amnesty International, Canada and Partnership Africa Canada. Canadian Jewellers for Conflict Free Diamonds aims to develop industry support for advocacy in reference to independent, regular monitoring under the Kimberley Process. For more information, visit the website at www.onesky.ca.

Rights and Democracy – Women's Rights Programme

Rights and Democracy, based in Montreal, has an active and important programme devoted to women's rights. The programme focuses on two areas, the integration of women's human rights and the creation of a methodology to document violations of these rights, and a concentration on violence against women, particularly in conflict areas and especially given the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Rights & Democracy is working to fill a void between the women's rights and the human rights movements in order to adequately address the gap in expertise existing in both those movements as well as in multilateral agencies.

An example of a project of the Women's Rights Programme is the Women's Rights Fund in Afghanistan The project focuses on supporting and building the capacity of Afghan women engaged in peace-building activities for Afghanistan at the local, regional and international levels. It also seeks to enhance dialogue through the creation of networks at the national, regional and international levels to recognize, encourage and enrich peacebuilding efforts for Afghanistan from a women's human rights perspective.

Liu Institute for Global Issues, UBC

The Liu Institute is currently producing *The Human Security Report* which will "map the incidence, intensity, causes and consequences of global violence and policy responses to that violence. It will feature data collated from a wide variety of sources -- including from the University of Uppsala, where researchers are compiling new statistics on armed conflicts commissioned specifically for the *Report*. In addition, the Ipsos-Reid polling organization has been commissioned to undertake annual global surveys examining peoples' experiences of, and fears concerning, violence and its impact." The report will bridge the gap between what data there is on violence and conflict, much of which is inaccurate or designed for academic audiences, and the need for policy makers to have quick and easy access to information. For more information visit www.ligi.ubc.ca.

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

Alberta-based Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace is focussed on the importance of peace education, with the ultimate goal of reducing the human cost of violence. To this end they promote a "systems approach to dealing with the root causes of violence". This means an integrated approach between people who want peace, educators who can help them conceptualize this desire and a commitment from the political establishment to support and assist peace education efforts. This includes venues for communication and gathering, collection of resources for those in need, and capacity building amongst peace loving people. While the ultimate goal may appear lofty, the Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace believe it is possible. Currently, they are in the process of developing "a model and special expertise in education for peace and the future that is leading edge". Their vision of Canada's role in conflict prevention is to help increase capacity for peace education – "which will far exceed the possible military contribution we can make". For more information, please visit the website at www.peace.ca.

4.3 Core Principles
Several basic ideas repeatedly appeared in the responses to the question relating to the core principles that direct the work of the respondents in conflict prevention. The three most popular sentiments were *empowerment* of local actors, *education* of people in conflicted areas and *dialogue* on conflict and violence. Additionally, democratic principles were identified as important, as were those of civil society, law and order and human rights, including respect, accountability and responsibility. There was also reference to documents such as the UN Charter on Human Rights and the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, *The Responsibility to Protect*, as representations of the principles at work within the organizations that responded to this survey. In the words of Eryl Court, respondent, one of the key principles is "security for one and all, and the responsibility of adults to ensure that children everywhere have a chance to grow up in a liveable world". Some of the other principles identified by respondents: equity, inclusion, enabling individuals, non-violence, and supporting, privileging and encouraging local and/or Southern actors.

4.4 Important Themes in Conflict Prevention Today
The themes identified as most important in conflict prevention varied according to the type and focus of the organization responding to the survey. This institutional specificity is understandable and reflects the specializations found in the conflict prevention field. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for example, includes sustainable and participatory management and development as some of the most important themes, while Project Ploughshares suggests that disarmament issues are integral to conflict prevention. Overall, responses ranged from specific, concrete themes, such as disarmament, to more theoretical or idealistic themes, such as human rights, non-violence, peacebuilding and commitment at various levels of government as well as among society at large.
The Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace suggested that large-scale violence is ultimately the result of unscrupulous leaders who exploit people by using things like religion, poverty or intolerance to encourage or facilitate the use of violence. In order to address such abuses of power, the organization further suggests that it is time to "reclaim" peace through education.

Among the responses from CIDA was one that mentioned the Canadian government's as yet to be well-defined 3D approach – diplomacy, defence, and development. The idea behind this principle is that programs and initiatives undertaken abroad are more effective when part of a holistic approach. A few survey respondents indicated that such a holistic vision should be Canada's contribution to international conflict prevention. This approach encompasses the issues regarding broadening traditional ideas relating to aid and development, commitment to international institutions and democratic processes, peacekeeping activities, as well as issues relating to sustainability and participation.

For instance, The Youth Millennium Project at UBC focuses on educating and empowering youth in areas where conflict has occurred, or is occurring. They very eloquently summed up this important theme by saying, "Peace is not simply the absence of war, it is the absence of fear. When communities are in need, when people don't have enough to eat, when there is a lack of clean water, people fear for their survival. The result of fear is often a power struggle that causes confusion, anxiety, and disputes over scarce resources which can lead to conflict and war." YMP has thus been working with youth to link the allocation and use of resources with fear and freedom from fear.

4.5 Role of Canada and Canadians
Several of the survey respondents elected not to answer the question relating to what role can/should Canada play in international conflict prevention. One interviewee suggested an answer to this question would be a political statement and certain individuals and organizations were reluctant to make such statements. On the other hand, those that did respond to this question did so with a variety of ideas and positions, ranging from support of Canada's focus on human security to extensive suggestions for specific action, including the specialization of the Canadian military establishment in peacekeeping and conflict prevention activities. Unfortunately, none of the Department of National Defence officials we contacted responded to the survey, thus it is not possible to compare their views with those expressed by non-governmental organizations.

In terms of specific responses to the question of *What role can/should Canada and/or Canadians play in international conflict prevention,* Rights and Democracy's Women's Rights Programme stated that Canada should back existing international work in support of women, such as the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, and that the government should lobby for the implementation of the Secretary General's report on Women, Peace and Security. In addition, they urged the Canadian government to maintain and promote a gender-sensitive approach to international programs, including aid programmes and international agreements such as the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as per the Montreal Principles. At the same time, other organizations, such as the Sub Sahara Centre advocate an increase in Canadian foreign aid budgets from 0.25% of GDP to 0.75% and a commitment to maintain and foster the image of Canada as a nation that cares but that is also willing to 'get its hands dirty' and not just pay lip service to the principles and ethics of peace, aid, and democracy. Overall, responses tended to reflect the focus of the organization from which they came (see the Women's Rights Programme above, for instance), but included similar principles. For instance, while the Women's Rights Programme advocates greater lobbying and involvement in women's rights issues, the Forum of Federations advocates working in conflict areas that could potentially benefit from a federal system of governance.

According to IMPACS, "Canada has the resources and capability to play a lead role in conflict prevention internationally. It could provide support by delivering training or by building local capacities and developing local assets. Canada should support initiatives related to media and peacebuilding, dialogues and roundtable sessions, mediation efforts, etc". In general, many of the respondents had basically positive things to say about Canada's role in conflict prevention. Often this also included ways to increase effectiveness, or to capitalize on what one respondent described as the 'deferring' to Canada on certain issues in multilateral fora. Basically, the responses leave the impression that respondents believe that Canada and Canadians have made a good start and are generally motivated by the right intentions but that more could be done. Particular suggestions included pushing for inclusion of women's rights in international treaties, strengthening of the UN and its procedures, the championing of international law and the encouragement of other states to adopt international treaties relating to the safety and security of people around the globe.

The overriding theme that appeared in several of the responses was that Canada should support the work of international and regional organizations. UNICEF stated that by using soft power, "Canada is in a strong position to champion international laws and treaties through the UN and other regional and international bodies". CUSO's response reflected similar views, stating; "Canada is respected internationally for being a promoter of peace and human security, and should continue this role. It should continue to work within multi-lateral frameworks, including the UN, ensuring rule of law is adhered to in all its conflict prevention and interventions. Canada should support the reform of the UN in order to make it a more effective international body capable of effecting positive change in today's world. Canada should be more active in ensuring that people around the world share equitably in its resources. Canada should promote human rights and democratic development in all its international dealings including in trade and development." Theresa Dunn expressed a related opinion, saying she believes Canada is strategically placed to become a leader in conflict prevention through its role as peacebuilder and often impartial agent. She went on to say that because of Canada's size and commitment to conflict resolution through collaboration "we are able to move internationally with knowledge and expertise". These views are fairly representative of a major portion of the responses received.

4.6 Services that Would Benefit Work in Conflict Prevention
Many of the responses to this question referenced the participation options as described in the quantitative section, including such things as dialogue, networking, policy discussions and research.

Some specific suggestions included:

- Creation of a central repository of information and resources that contains information on what is happening in the field, who is active, interesting projects and other general information;
- Access to information resources;
- Facilitation and support of activities in peace and peacebuilding;
- A platform for networking nationally and internationally;
- A forum for disseminating and analysing program results;
- Collective advocacy/representation;
- Support for an increased focus on youth and aboriginal engagement in the CCPI;
- Strengthened linkages between organizations;
- Promotion of a holistic approach to peace education.

4.7 Section Summary
Respondents indicate:
- Canada is, or at least has the potential to be, a leader in international conflict prevention;
- Work by Canadians reaches every region of the globe, though Africa and Asia are of particular focus;
- Education, training, empowerment and equity make up a large proportion of grassroots programming;
- Services that would benefit the work of Canadian conflict prevention practitioners include such things as access to research and information, opportunities for dialogue and networking, and conferences and meetings.

Section 5 Annexes

5.1 Sources

Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee, "Call for Researchers", June 3, 2003.

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Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace www.peace.ca
Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee, www.peacebuild.ca
CIDA, www.acdi-cida.gc.ca
CIFP, www.carleton.ca/cifp
DFAIT, www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca
Liu Institute for Global Issues, www.ligi.ubc.ca
One Sky, www.onesky.ca
Project Ploughshares, www.ploughshares.ca
Rights and Democracy, www.ichrdd.ca

5.2 Survey Participants

1. David Newing – Upstream Strategies
2. Robert Stewart – Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace
3. Judy Meltzer – FOCAL
4. Metta Spencer – Science for Peace
5. Lauraine Clement – IDRC
6. Brian Job – Centre of International Relations, UBC
7. E. Tummers – Centre for Foreign Policy Studies
8. David Dewitt – Centre for International and Security Studies, York University
9. Gord Breedyk – ADR – Alternatives
10. Michael Kerr – Green Lotus International, National Anti-Racism Council of Canada

11. Jean-Sebastien Rioux – Laval University
12. Maggie Cooper Little – Institute for Dispute Resolution, University of Victoria
13. Theresa Dunn – TDunn and Associates
14. Tracy London – Oceans Blue Foundation
15. Tag Elkhazin – Sub Sahara Centre
16. Edelgard Mahant- York University
17. Paul LaRose Edwards – CANADEM
18. Therese Bouchard – CECI
19. Lisa Thomas-Tench – Youth Millennium Project, UBC
20. CoSumma International
21. Cecile Marotte – RIVO
22. Carly Burpee – University of Victoria
23. Leslie Karpenko, Ilia Avroutine – Peace on the Planet Canada
24. Rosamelia Andrade – IMPACS
25. Gianne Broughton – Canadian Friends Service Committee
26. Dina Aloi – UNICEF
27. Chris Derksen-Hiebert – World Vision
28. Eryl Court – Unitarian Universalist UN Committee
29. Nicole Hurtubise – Peacefund Canada
30. Peachy Forbes – Philippine Development Assistance Program
31. Anne Livingstone – Pearson Peacekeeping Centre
32. Howard Adelman – York University
33. Jose M. Montabes – CIDA
34. Solveig Schuster - CIDA
35. Larissa Fast – Project Ploughshares
36. Nikki Skuce – One Sky – The Canadian Institute for Sustainable Living
37. Silke Reichrath – IDRC
38. Jessie Sutherland – University of Victoria
39. Suehila Elkateb – CIDA
40. Forum of Federations
41. Rena Ramkay – Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation
42. Hayley Vernon – CIDA
43. Lois Wilson – Canada-DPR Korea Association
44. Norma Gonzalez – Negotiation and Transformation of Conflict Program
45. Evan Hoffman – NewMathforHumanity
46. Stephen Baranyi – North-South Institute
47. Cindy Isaac – CARE Canada
48. Debby Cote – CUSO
49. Todd Martin – Liu Institute for Global Issues, UBC
50. Isabelle Solon Helal – Rights and Democracy, Women's Issues Programme
51. Faiz Abhuani – Public Research Interest Group, McGill University
52. Leah Feuer – Canadian Red Cross

5.3 Email Survey

Definition of Conflict Prevention and Activities
Conflict Prevention refers to measures that reduce the likelihood of tensions and disputes between states or interest/identity groups leading to violence. It includes activities that allow stakeholders to address grievances in non-violent ways (e.g. mediation, justice reform, peace education, arms control, representative governance, equitable development, governance reform etc.) and activities that enhance awareness of the conflict-sensitivity of aid and trade (e.g. peace and conflict impact assessments). Conflict prevention can be an activity of non-governmental organizations, private sector firms, government departments and international institutions operating in all contexts, but especially in situations where conflict is simmering and during and after violent clashes.

Why this survey?
This survey is designed to allow the Canadian Conflict Prevention Initiative to identify individuals and organizations in Canada who are, or are likely to be, engaged in conflict prevention, the types and areas of activity they are working in and the themes and expectations of the Canadian conflict prevention community.

Use of Results
The results of this survey will be used to create an overall picture of Canadian work on conflict prevention and to lay the groundwork for the future work of the CCPI. This questionnaire also allows individuals and organizations an opportunity to update their contact information in the CPCC database.

Part 1: Institutional Affiliation/General Questions

1. What organization/group/department do you work for?
_____

2. What is the nature of this organization/group/department? (Please choose the one that best applies):

Government   _____
University   _____
College   _____
Other Educational Institution _____
Think-Tank   _____
Business   _____
Cooperative   _____
Faith-based Organization _____
Full service NGO _____
Specialized NGO _____ Area of Specialization_____
Media   _____
Independent consultant _____
Other (please specify)_____

3. In which of the following areas of work are you, or do you intend to be, active?

	Very Active	Somewhat Active	Hardly Active	N/A
Early Warning Systems	_____	_____	_____	____

Risk Assessment and Conflict   _____   _____   _____   ____
      Analysis
Mediation or Conflict   _____   _____   _____   ____
      Management
Justice and Security Sector Reform____   _____   _____   ____
Relief and Humanitarian assistance____   _____   _____   ____
Economic and Social Equity   _____   _____   _____   ____
Governance and Political Development_____   _____   _____   ____
Children and armed conflict   _____   _____   _____   ____
Peace Education   _____   _____   _____   ____
Policy Development   _____   _____   _____   ____
Work relating to a conflict-prone _____   _____   _____   ____
      geographical region
      If so, which geographic region(s)?
Oceania _____   South America _____   Latin America _____   North America_____
Africa ____   Europe _____   Asia _____   SouthEast Asia _____   Middle East _____

4. Which of the following activities of a Canadian conflict prevention network would be of interest to you?

	Very Interesting	Somewhat Interesting	Not very Interesting
Network building_____		_____	_____
Policy dialogue _____		_____	_____
Research _____		_____	_____
Training _____		_____	_____
Wider Outreach_____		_____	_____
Fundraising _____		_____	_____
Lobbying/Advocacy_____		_____	_____
Resource Development_____		_____	_____

Other:_____

5. In what way would you most be interested in participating in the Canadian Conflict Prevention Initiative (CCPI)?

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested
Participate in Canadian meetings_____		_____	_____
Participate in international _____		_____	_____
meetings/conference			
Participate in training _____		_____	_____
Participate in regional activities _____		_____	_____
in Southern regions			
Participate in network building _____		_____	_____
Be kept informed via email list serve_____		_____	_____
Participate in Fundraising _____		_____	_____
Participate in Policy Development_____		_____	_____
Participate in Research Initiatives_____		_____	_____

Other (Please Specify)_____

Part 2 Qualitative Questions:

6. What specific conflict prevention activities are you and/or your organization engaged in, or intend to become engaged in?

7.What are the core principles that direct your work on conflict prevention?

8. What are the most important themes in conflict prevention today for you or your organization?

9. What role can/should Canada and/or Canadians play in international conflict prevention?

10. What services could CCPI offer that would benefit your work?

By returning this survey you are consenting to the use of this information for the purposes of the Canadian Conflict Prevention Initiative and the creation of a database of Canadian conflict prevention professionals and organizations. If you wish to remain involved in the work of the CCPI you are invited to fill out the specific contact details below.

Name and Job Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address:_____

5. 4 Survey Results

Question 2 – Organizational Affiliation

Type of Organization	
Government	5
University	13
College	0
Other Educational Institution	2
Think Tank	3
Business	2
Cooperative	0
Faith-based Organization	3
Full Service NGO	4
Specialized NGO	14
Media	0
Independent Consultant	3
Other	6

Question 3 – Areas of Work

Areas of Work	Very Active	Somewhat Active	Hardly Active	N/A
Early Warning Systems	5	13	9	22
Risk Assessment/Conflict Analysis	10	18	9	11
Mediation/Conflict Management	14	18	5	13
Justice and Security Sector Reform	12	12	3	22
Relief/Humanitarian Assistance	5	15	5	25
Economic and Social Equity	13	15	4	18
Governance and Political Development	17	16	3	14
Children and Armed Conflict	10	11	8	18
Peace Education	20	12	4	15
Policy Development	18	19	6	8
Work in a Specific Region	23	13	4	7

Oceania	South America	Latin America	North America	Africa
4	8	19	10	32
Europe	Asia	Southeast Asia	Middle East	
9	18	17	14	

Question 4 – Interest in a Conflict Prevention Network

Interest in a conflict Prevention Network	Very Interesting	Somewhat Interesting	Not very Interesting
Network Building	27	13	9
Policy Dialogue	35	14	2
Research	29	15	5
Training	18	16	14
Wider Outreach	13	18	17
Fundraising	11	8	28
Lobbying/Advocacy	15	17	16
Resource Development	16	15	16
Other	5		

Question 5 – Interest in Participating in the CCPI

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not interested
Canadian Meetings	27	19	3
International Meetings/Conferences	26	17	6
Training	18	20	11
Regional Activities	21	16	10
Network Building	22	18	8
Email listserv	32	13	4
Fundraising	7	9	32
Policy Development	24	18	6
Research Initiatives	24	17	5
Other	2		

Qualitative Results (Overview of Responses)

6. *Specific activities/involvement in conflict prevention*
- CIDA is extensively involved in conflict prevention, including legal reform, elections, resource management, health/AIDS, gender/children etc., paving the way for development programs.
- "YMP [Youth Millennium Project] builds peace by educating youth in global citizenship and peace leadership, and empowers youth to contribute to international and community development. Our core activities are engaging youth in developing humanitarian and international development projects of their own design. Over the past 5 years, we have registered and assisted 20,000 youth in 80+ countries in developing such projects. Our website: http://www.ympworld.org provides a lot more detail."
- One Sky is an organization that works primarily on the link between human security and the environment, focusing particularly on programs in Sierra Leone where they support grassroots vocational training programs in which war-affected youth learn about topics such as organic farming, pedal-powered technologies and bike mechanics. One Sky is also involved in environmental education and a women's micro-credit project.

In conjunction with Partnership Africa Canada and Amnesty International, One Sky has launched the Canadian Jewellers for Conflict-free Diamonds initiative, which encourages industry to support independent monitoring under the Kimberley Process.

- Programs in natural resource management in Latin America and Asia which may not be explicitly conflict prevention but encourage and allow local management of resource-based conflict, were a theme including a part of the work of IDRC. This type of response indicates a broadening of ideas of what constitutes conflict prevention among certain organizations and individuals in the community.
- One of the most important recurring themes resulting from the survey is the quantity of grassroots work, local-level programs, and empowering programming. Viewing the role of these organizations primarily as one of support.
- "World Vision is involved in conflict prevention at several levels, in several regions of conflict. Activities include mediation, policy and advocacy at UN and with Canadian governments (also our sister offices in the US, UK, Australia, European Union and in several Southern countries are involved with their governments,) we are developing our capacity in peace education as part of our community-based transformational development work, reintegration of ex-combatants particularly children, actively support peace and justice networks in several regions of conflict, economic and social justice work -- both at policy level and through transformational development work, "mainstreaming" Local Capacities for Peace/Do No Harm principles and practices in all humanitarian initiatives, etc."
- Education and development were often linked by respondents, including the Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace. 'Education' was used in reference to not only peace education, but also training and development efforts.
- Some of the responding organizations, including especially the Unitarian Universalist UN Office, work closely with, and through, international organizations.
- "Currently, NewMathforHumanity is contributing to prevention activities by doing research into "what works" in eliminating organized violence. This research covers three main areas: prevention, mediation, and post-violence peacekeeping. The results of this study will be available in early 2004."
- Several respondents are specialists in certain areas of conflict prevention (such as Project Ploughshares and their emphasis on weapons and disarmament), while other organizations, like CIDA, work in many different program areas.
- A number of organizations also have policy and/or research components to their work.
- "The Quaker Aboriginal Affairs Committee [of the Canadian Friends Service Committee] nurtures links with aboriginal communities for

research, policy development, advocacy, mediation, non-violent conflict resolution, primarily in Canada, but active in Geneva and New York in United Nations processes."

- "The International Committee supports non-violent conflict resolution training, and peace education projects in Sierra Leone, D. R. Congo, and Uganda. Also, community development projects in Guatemala that strengthen the Aboriginal Mayan community." (Canadian Friends Service Committee)
- A recurring emphasis on individual rights and rights-based programming and accountability of local organizations together with an emphasis on regional and international organizations was also present in the responses.
- Rights and Democracy's Women's Rights Programme is involved in two programming areas: 1) the integration of women's human rights and a methodology to document violations of these rights, and 2) addressing violence against women, particularly in conflicted regions, including the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.
- "CUSO is currently implementing a project in the Solomon Islands "Women and Peacebuilding" to strengthen dialogue as a mechanism for conflict resolution and prevention. With support from the Human Security Program at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), CUSO is partnering with a Solomon Islands NGO, 'Women for Peace', to develop an innovative approach to peacebuilding in the Solomon Islands. (Please see CUSO's website, <http://www.cuso.org> www.cuso.org. for details)"
- The Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC is currently working on *The Human Security Report* which will "map the incidence, intensity, causes and consequences of global violence and policy responses to that violence" using data from a variety of sources.
- The Red Cross, as well as several other respondents, indicated work revolving around international humanitarian law and the promotion of human rights.
- "CARE Canada is involved in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, community mobilization, peace education, media and peace advocacy, civil society and strengthening/capacity building. CARE Canada is also looking at building its good governance initiatives and getting more involved in the advocacy/policy front on conflict prevention."
- Some organizations, such as the North-South Institute, focus on structural causes of conflict, or issues in economic, social or political development. CIDA, IDRC and other organizations also deal in large part with projects that fall under these issue areas.

7. *Core Principles*
- Supporting, privileging and encouraging Southern/local actors.
- Human rights, respect, accountability and responsibility.

- According to CIDA, director general for Asia and the Middle East, the important principles are "l'observation, l'écoute, l'analyse, la coordination internationale et l'accompagnement des acteurs locaux, ainsi que le rôle et place de la femme dans la prévention et la résolution des conflits" Observing, listening and analyzing, international coordination and the assistance of local actors, as well as the role of women in the resolution of conflicts.
- Democracy
- The Sub Sahara Centre identified several core principles:
  1- In depth need assessment and analysis
  2- Need driven approach
  3- Moral and cultural sensitivities to the stakeholders
  4- Respect for the local indigenous modalities and tools
  5- All-inclusiveness
  6- Viewing the problems through the eyes of the stakeholders
  7- Training of Trainers (TOT) approach to give ownership of the processes to the people
  8- Hence active and true involvement of local institutions as partners."
- Empowerment and education – particularly prevalent responses
- Dialogue – also very prevalent
- Non-violence
- The Canadian Red Cross identified its guiding principles as being the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, with their importance vis-à-vis conflict situation and the importance of dissemination to arms carriers, governments and general public in peace time, as well as the Red Cross Fundamental Principles (humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality
- Equity and sustainability
- Civil society
- Enabling
- "All of NewMathforHumanity's work is guided by the notion of transforming the use of power. Power is energy directed to a purpose. We define it as "the deliberate use of skills to mobilize resources to produce a change". The process (using skills to mobilize resources) can be constructive or destructive; the outcome (the resulting change) can be constructive or destructive. A constructive outcome does not justify a destructive process. Producing good outcomes through good processes is the goal."
- Two-track approaches, using interested stakeholders, as well as the Canadian diaspora (Forum of Federations). A few organizations refer to specific goals as the core principles of their work, including Project Ploughshares whose response stated; that 4 themes guide their work:
  - reduce reliance on military force
  - build peace and prevent war
  - control the arms trade
  - abolish nuclear weapons"

- UNICEF operates under the principles outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as does the Youth Millennium Project at UBC.
- IMPACS attempts to use media to aid in transition, promote peace, and support reconstruction in post-conflict regions.
- Peace on the Planet responded by saying "No violence and war is justified. Expression of views, including aggressive, has many venues, including the important and accepted venue for all: Art. To combat the media images of violence and war being OK, children need to create alternative, true images of how they want things around them to look, and we show that peace is what they want."

8. *Most Important Themes*
- Environmental protection (One Sky)
- Broadening traditional aid work to take into account potential conflict triggers
- Sustainable and participatory management (IDRC)
- Responsibility to the world and the people in it
- Human rights and non-violence and the universality of these principles
- Disarmament
- "Non-violence, Tolerance, Exchange of ideas on the future of the world starting with the early-age participants" (Peace on the Planet)
- Themes range from the specific and concrete (i.e. disarmament) to broader and more theoretical/idealistic themes (i.e. responsibility to protect)
- The 3-Ds, diplomacy, defence and development
- Women/gender and its role in conflict prevention
- Peacebuilding and prevention, reconstruction and reconciliation (Upstream)
- Commitment
- Sub Sahara Centre themes:
  1- Practitioner approach
  2- Strategies that work
  3- Simplicity and applicability of tools of conflict resolution
  4- Long-term approaches
  5- Reach the marginalized
  6- Approaches to get to root causes of conflict
  7- Time… Time… and Time to resolve conflicts and not just stop violence
- Inclusion of various 'identities', addressing systemic inequality (Green Lotus International)
- The Canadian Friends Service Committee is focussed on addressing root causes, both domestically and overseas, of violence and conflict, as well as strengthening both capacity and will for non-violent resolution.

9. *Role of Canada/Canadians*

- Independent foreign policy from the US is important (As Peace on the Planet wrote: "Located in North America, Canada, nevertheless, is pursuing an independent policy from that of USA. This gives Canada a unique advantage in mediating international conflicts. Therefore, Canada must explore this strength and not necessarily by having a sizeable peace-keeping force, but rather by creating networks of analysts who, through working with the representatives of the numerous ethnic communities living in Canada (snapshots of the world), will be able to predict and advise on the resolution of various world problems.")
- Encouraging dialogue, transparency in a variety of venues, including the media. Facilitating transitions to democracy and offering training support.
- Advancing peace education, developing expertise in the area –"to reach peace, teach peace" (Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace). Education and capacity building are a more effective way Canada can contribute than any military contribution.
- Strengthened global, not US, governance through bodies like the UN will be invaluable in prevention.
- Consumer education re: choices that can affect conflict (diamonds), an emphasis by DFAIT on resources and the environment and their role in conflict and prevention (One Sky)
- Support non-violent action against tyranny
- Canada, as world leaders in the field, should adjust its military structure to become specialists (Upstream)
- Support rules-based order, possibly act as peace broker in international disputes
- Strengthen both local capacities and international institutions.
- Continue the global village approach, build on tradition of Lester Pearson. The Canadian Friends Service Committee suggests "Increased emphasis on diplomacy, human security, prevention through development and addressing policy issues that prevent appropriate development and sustainability; facilitating experience sharing among conflict prevention workers from disparate conflict zones; strengthening international human rights processes to offer practical non-violent alternatives for seeking justice; understand the specific ways that Canadian economic and political interests and policies fuel conflicts at home and abroad, then take action to transform to relationships that are just."
- Promote the rights of disadvantaged/silenced groups, long-term follow-up, equitable resource distribution while preventing interventions/invasions that promote individual countries' interests.
- DIALOGUE
- International law and order and supporting international institutions crops up repeatedly.

10. *Ways in which a conflict prevention network could assist in your work*.
- Can be summed up under 3 major headings
    - Promotion (of specific initiatives/work in the area)
    - Dialogue (among practitioners, with other stakeholders)
    - Networking (connecting people with others in the field)

And three secondary categories; 1) Research, 2) Advocacy, 3) Resources

- Dialogue, connect organizations with others doing work that complements or would assist existing programming
- Connectivity
- Database of practitioners/programmes and areas of work/expertise
- Some had specific requests, such as Canadem wishing to use such a network for dissemination of the free resource it offers
- Youth Millennium Project – "The opportunity to network and share resources looking forward to developing cross-functional programming in specific war-affected areas and populations."
- World Vision suggests a focus on policy/advocacy and encouraging the Canadian government to actively support the work of the NGO community in conflict prevention.
- Research was also a popular area where a network was seen as potentially useful. This included research into best/worst practices, analysis of conflict situations and innovative conflict prevention activities.

5. 5 About Conflict Prevention

Popular usage of the term conflict prevention can be traced to the activities of United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld (although its underlying logic has existed at least since the emergence of the modern state system; the Westphalian Treaty at its birth was an attempt to prevent the continuation of the interstate warfare of the early 17th Century; and indeed, its rationale is deeply imbedded in such fundamentals of statecraft as deterrence, reassurance and compellence). Hammarskjöld realised that early engagement of the global organization could act to forestall the destructiveness of conflict created by external military intervention and arms transfers. Preventive diplomacy stems from the more general reasoning that external interventions can be avoided or tempered if a region is made more autonomous in terms of security. Preventive diplomacy aims to fill the vacuum so that it will not provoke a hostile response from any of the major parties. When crisis threatens, traditional diplomacy continues, but more urgent preventive efforts are required - through unilateral and multilateral channels - to arbitrate, mediate, or lend "good offices" to encourage dialogue and facilitate.

Conflict prevention has grown in importance due to the evolving nature of conflict. The shift from interstate to intrastate conflict is well documented. However, this change in itself has not been sufficient to generate a call for revised thinking on preventive action. It is the surrounding circumstances, the ability of complex conflicts to spread vertically and horizontally – in essence - the potential of intrastate conflict to do harm to others, ordinary citizens, neighbouring states, refugees and minorities - that generates preventive efforts.

In the post-Cold War era conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy became catch phrases for any activity by any actor to reduce the possibility of conflict, from development assistance to human rights activism, preventive peacekeeping activities, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding. The former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali offered a very general definition of conflict prevention. What he called conflict prevention is action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur. He further suggested that the most desirable and efficient employment of diplomacy is to ease tensions before they result in conflict – or, if conflict breaks out, to act swiftly to contain it and resolve its underlying causes. Conflict prevention requires measures to create confidence; it needs early warning based on information gathering and informal or formal fact-finding; it may also involve preventive deployment and, in some situations, demilitarized zones. This is a very broad approach to preventive action; one that captures all perceivable stages of conflict, from prevention to resolution.

Michael Lund differentiates between "peacetime diplomacy or politics" during eras of durable and stable peace, "conflict prevention or conflict prevention" during eras of unstable peace, "crisis diplomacy or crisis management" during a

crisis situation, and "peacemaking or conflict management" during war. Lund envisions "peace enforcement or conflict mitigation" as the appropriate response to war situations, "peacekeeping or conflict termination" as a means to defuse war and conflict, followed by "post-conflict peacebuilding or conflict resolution." Each of these stages requires different operational and institutional responses, while conflict prevention is only effective during a situation of unstable peace – when the signs for an emerging conflict become obvious to the informed outside observer. Bruce Jentleson echoes this more subtle interpretation of conflict prevention by distinguishing between "normal diplomacy," "developmentalist diplomacy," "conflict prevention" and "war diplomacy," an approach which seems to explain the wide range of external involvement in zones of instability.

The Secretary-General's 2001 <u>Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict</u> adopted the distinction made by the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict between operational prevention, which refers to measures applicable in the face of immediate crisis, and structural prevention, which consists of measures to ensure that crises do not arise in the first place or, if they do, that they do not recur. Here the stress is on the need to address root causes of potential conflicts through long-term, structural prevention. In recognition of the potential catch-all character of the prevention agenda, however, there is a clear distinction between regular developmental and humanitarian assistance programmes, on the one hand, and those implemented as a preventive response to problems that could lead to the outbreak or recurrence of violent conflict, on the other. This differentiation is echoed by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty in its report on <u>The Responsibility to Protect</u>. The report stresses international, regional, national and local cooperation in both direct (operational) and root cause (structural) preventive efforts. Both reports emphasized the need for the UN and other inter-state, state and non-state actors to move from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. While both reports argued that the main responsibility for preventive efforts lies with national governments and civil society, intergovernmental organizations such as the UN and regional organizations play leading roles in strengthening the capacity of national and local actors to create conditions that foster peace. The UN and regional organizations' commitment and ability to promote and practice preventive strategies are key to sustained preventive efforts at national and local levels.

Kalypso Nicolaides provides a useful conceptual framework for determining how conflict prevention relates to conflict prevention. Conflict prevention is an operational response. It is premised on incentive structures provided by outside actors to change specific kinds of undesirable behaviour. Conflict prevention is therefore, targeted and short-term and the preventive action taken relates directly to changes in conflict escalation and conflict dynamics. In this regard outside actors can seek to influence the course of events and try to alter or induce specific behaviour through coercive and operational threats and deterrents or through less coercive strategies of persuasion and inducement.

Ultimately though, outside actors can work to influence the incentives of the relevant parties engaged in conflict but they cannot change the initial conditions that led to conflict in the first place. That process has to take place within. Thus, structural approaches emphasize capacity building to provide conflict prone societies with the means to address root causes of conflict. In this sense, structural conflict prevention strategies, such as those focusing on human security, conflict transformation and development cast a much broader net. They tend to be long term and are generally applied across a range of countries, issues and actors. The goal is to transform conflictual behaviour over time. This change in behaviour can be dependent on institutional inducements – such as conditionality for membership in international institutions, arms control agreements and stability pacts or on the promotion of sustainable development, support for human security and regional confidence building mechanisms. The difference between operational and structural approaches is made clear through the analogy to the clinical and environmental approaches to health care. Clinical and environmental health care may both be preventively oriented. However, the former focuses on the treatment of sick individuals, whereas the latter emphasizes a public health model that aims to prevent illness by focussing on its associated environmental factors.

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