

## **Peggy Mason, President of the Rideau Institute on International Affairs**

A former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN and an expert on the political/diplomatic aspects of UN peacekeeping training, Peggy Mason is now the President of the Rideau Institute, an independent, non-profit think tank focusing on research and advocacy in foreign, defence and national security policy. In that capacity she brings a progressive voice to issues ranging from the imperative of nuclear disarmament to the centrality of UN conflict resolution, appearing regularly in the blogosphere, in print media and on radio and television as well as before the Foreign Affairs and National Defence Standing Committees.

Her career highlights diplomatic and specialist expertise in the field of international peace and security, with a particular emphasis on the United Nations, where she served as Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament from 1989 to 1995. She served on the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament for 8 years and Chaired two UN Expert Groups on arms control verification and the regulation of small arms respectively. Since 1996 Ms. Mason has been involved in many aspects of UN peacekeeping training, including the development of groundbreaking principles on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former fighters, the reform of UN arms embargoes and the dramatic evolution of UN peacekeeping in the 21st century.

As a regular trainer and exercise developer (1995 -2014), Mason brought the UN political/diplomatic perspective to a range of UN, NATO and EU training exercises to help prepare military commanders and their staff for complex, multidisciplinary peace and crisis stabilization operations and in particular to help them understand the primacy of the peace process in building a sustainable peace.

From 2002-2012 Peggy Mason was a Senior Fellow at The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University, where she lectured, participated in training for Iraqi and Kuwaiti diplomats and chaired the Advisory Board of the Canadian Centre for Treaty Compliance (CCTC). Peggy Mason is currently active in many NGO's including the Group of 78, World Federalist Movement – Canada, and the Pugwash Movement-Canada.

A graduate of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Common Law, she was inducted into its Honour Society in 2003. For her work on nuclear disarmament she received the 2016 Leadership Award from Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.