



Le Maire de Montréal

Open letter to Mayors for Peace from  
Mr Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montréal and executive member of Mayors for Peace

**International Day of Peace**  
"Minute of Silence – Moment of Peace" ceremony  
Friday September 21, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

This year again, Montreal will be celebrating the United Nations *International Day of Peace* on September 21.

In 2001, the General Assembly by unanimous vote adopted resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The UN invites all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

When first approached by the NGO Cercle de Paix – Circle of Peace, the Municipal Council came together on March 21, 2005, and unanimously proclaimed September 21 "*International Day of Peace*" in Montreal. Since then, Montreal City Hall has celebrated the *International Day of Peace* with a "*Minute of Silence – Moment of Peace*" ceremony at 12:00 noon, as per the request of then Secretary-General of the United Nations, HE Kofi Annan, and more recently HE Ban Ki Moon.

This year we are encouraging all of you to do the same. *Mayors for Peace* has been a long-time supporter of the "*International Day of Peace*", and has used this platform to help promote our own cause. Back in 2009 the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Tadatoshi Akiba wrote a letter to "*Mayors and Citizens throughout the World*"... It read: "... *This year the United Nations is calling for the International Day of Peace to be focused on Disarmament with the theme of 'We Must Disarm! Take action for a world free of nuclear weapons.'* We welcome the United Nation's initiative and call on all our members, and citizens everywhere, to take this opportunity to draw public attention to this vital cause and the importance of a Nuclear Weapons Free World. We ask you to join with other activities around the world which will be observing a minute of silence at 12 noon on September 21st".

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This year's theme for the *International Day of Peace 2012* is "*Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future*". Another reason to sustain our organization's efforts towards Peace.

In collaboration with the NGO Cercle de Paix – Circle of Peace and its partners, including the *International Day of Peace NGO Committee at the UN*, Montreal will be celebrating a "*Minute of Silence – Moment of Peace*" ceremony and broadcast it via the Internet. Many cities plan to connect with us LIVE and discussions are being held to connect with UN TV for worldwide exposure. A special platform has also been created to allow cities around the world to participate and upload photos and videos of events in their own cities.

Starting in Hiroshima at noon on Friday September 21, 2012, this virtual Peace Wave will then continue on to Montreal, and beyond, as *Mayors for Peace* member cities from around the world unite for a "*Minute of Silence – Moment of Peace*" to help celebrate the *International Day of Peace*. We believe this event will have a ripple effect around the world.

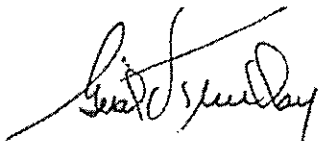
Recently, I was at the UN headquarters in New York with 40 fellow Mayors to speak at the "United Cities and Local Governments" meeting attended by Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon. There we discussed "The Future Local and Regional Governments Want". Some of you may already be aware that our city has its own "*Charter of Rights and Responsibilities*". Article 1 states: "*The city is both a territory and a living space in which values of human dignity, tolerance, peace, inclusion and equality must be promoted among all citizens...*". We invite you to visit our website and read more about this initiative:

[http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?\\_pageid=3036,3377687&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=3036,3377687&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

Last year, on the International Day of Peace, our new President and Mayor of Hiroshima, Mayor Kazumi Matsui, officially announced that Mayors for Peace surpassed 5000 members (today, there are 5238 member cities). In November of last year, the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference in Granollers adopted as a "celebratory project" the holding of A-bomb exhibitions in as many cities as possible in 2012. Members are encouraged to hold simple poster exhibitions somewhere in the city during August 3 to 10, or September 15 to 21. These are just a few of the ways to help create and support "*Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future*".

Let's collaborate to make "*Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future*" an expression of our commitment on the *International Day of Peace 2012*.

Sincerely,



Gérald Tremblay  
Mayor of Montréal

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE FOR 100-DAY COUNTDOWN TO INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF PEACE (21 SEPTEMBER 2012)**

**13 June 2012**

Today, we start the 100-day countdown to the observance of the International Day of Peace, when we call on combatants around the world to put down their weapons and try to find peaceful solutions to their conflicts.

The International Day of Peace, marked every year on 21 September, gives us all a chance to reflect on the unconscionable toll – moral, physical, material – wrought by war. Those costs are borne not only by us today, but by future generations as well.

That is why this year's theme is "Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future." It highlights the fact that we cannot possibly think about building a sustainable future if there is no sustainable peace. Armed conflicts attack the very pillars of sustainable development, robbing people of the opportunity to develop, to create jobs, to safeguard the environment, to fight poverty, to reduce the risk from disasters, to advance social equity and to ensure that everyone has enough to eat.

One week from today, as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development opens in Rio de Janeiro, the world will have an opportunity to fight back. With tens of thousands of politicians, policy-makers, social activists, business leaders and others mobilized for action, Rio+20 can help us to create a global roadmap for a sustainable future, the future we want.

We want a future where natural resources are protected and valued rather than used to finance wars, where children can be educated at school and not recruited into armies, where economic and social inequalities are resolved through dialogue instead of violence.

If we are to build such a future, we must all play our individual part. I urge everyone, between now and 21 September, to think about how they can contribute. Let us work together to ensure that the Road from Rio leads us to sustainable development, sustainable peace... and a secure future for all.