

# RAW NEWS



COMMERCIAL-FREE NEWS FROM THE ONTARIO INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTRE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2003 WEBSITE: [ONTARIO.INDYMEDIA.ORG](http://ONTARIO.INDYMEDIA.ORG)

## Canadians unite for peace

### Hundreds of thousands across country

February 15 was a day of international action to stop war against the people of Iraq and elsewhere. Over ten million people took action around the world to speak as a collective voice for peace. Demonstrations were organized in over 77 Canadian communities of all sizes, and Canadians all over the country braved the winter chill to show up for peace.

While estimates of the numbers of people involved can vary widely, it can safely be said

there were over 200,000 people involved across the country, and perhaps even more than 300,000. Mainstream media reports have proven unreliable in assessing numbers — CBC, the Globe and Mail, and Sun Media Corporation were all quoted as assessing the number of people in Toronto as “about 10,000” while CTV announced 30,000 and the Toronto Star described “an estimated 80,000 marchers,” which fit more with reports on the Ontario Indymedia site of 50,000-100,000.

But the numbers aren't the most important part of the story. The diversity of people involved and the messages they were voicing are what really matters. People of all ages, of all races, of all cultural and faith backgrounds, or all sexual identities, of all classes and of all political affiliations showed up. They were saying no to war, no to killing innocent civilians, no to sanctions, no to racial targeting, no to U.S. imperialism, no to a culture of war and military might, no to divisions among people. They were saying yes to peace, yes to justice, yes to freedom, yes to unity, yes to a collective humanity, and yes to the power of the people.

In a February 13 press release, Josh Matlow of the Canadian Peace Alliance said, “Marches, rallies and demonstrations are planned across the country. Each event brings



Vancouver



Montreal

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### MARCH 5 — Student Walkout

Students across Canada will walk out of their classes at 9:30am to show they do not support brutal military action against Iraq's men, women and children. See [our-media.org](http://our-media.org)

##### MARCH 8 — Int'l Women's Day

The next day of international action, including a Women's Peace March in Washington. See [www.codepink4peace.org](http://www.codepink4peace.org)

#### PLUG IN TO THE PEACE PAGE

[ontario.indymedia.org/peace](http://ontario.indymedia.org/peace)

This central shared resource page for the peace movement has coverage and listings of events, as well as many resources and links.

out more Canadians by the tens of thousands. We are the largest Canadian peace movement since the Vietnam War, we have now become the majority and we are now the mainstream.”

#### A NON-COMPLETE LIST OF CANADIAN COMMUNITIES WHERE ACTIONS WERE HELD FEB 15

**ALBERTA:** Calgary - Canmore - Edmonton - Lethbridge - Medicine Hat - Red Deer; **BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Castlegar - Comox Valley - Cowichan - Grand Forks - Kamloops - Kelowna - Lilloet - Nelson - Penticton - Prince George - Qualicum Beach - Quesnel - Salmon Arm - Salt Spring Island - Smithers - Tofino - Vancouver - Vancouver Island (Central/Nanaimo) - Victoria - Westbank; **MANITOBA:** Brandon - Winnipeg; **NEW BRUNSWICK:** Campbellton - Fredricton - Moncton - Riverview - Tantramar Region/Sackville; **NEWFOUNDLAND:** St. John's; **NORTH WEST TERRITORIES:** Yellowknife; **NOVA SCOTIA:** Annapolis Royal - Antigonish - Halifax - Port Hawkesbury - Sydney - Truro - Wolfville - Yarmouth; **ONTARIO:** Barrie - Cobourg - Cornwall - Guelph - Hamilton - Huntsville - Kingston - Kitchener/Waterloo - London - Midland - North Bay - Orangeville - Orillia - Ottawa/Hull - Pembroke - Peterborough - Parry Sound - Port Perry - St. Catharines/Niagara - Sault Ste. Marie - Sudbury - Thornbury - Thunder Bay - Toronto - Uxbridge - Windsor; **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:** Charlottetown; **QUEBEC:** Montreal - New Carlisle - Quebec City; **SASKATCHEWAN:** Prince Albert - Regina - Saskatoon; **YUKON:** Whitehorse