

## **Vancouver Save Article 9 (VSA9)**

The Japanese constitution has a peace clause, Article 9. It reads:

*“Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.*

*In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”*

The Japanese government is trying to change it so that Japan could become an “ordinary nation” which can send its military abroad to engage in combat. We (VSA9) are against such a change in Article 9.

## **The Purpose of VSA9**

VSA9 was established in May, 2005 with the purpose of making contributions to the movement to stop the Japanese government from changing Article 9, in conjunction with several thousand such

organizations in Japan. At the same time and not less importantly, we will attempt to persuade many nations to adopt such an article in their constitutions. Currently 150 members strong, we are carrying out a number of campaigns including collecting signatures for a petition to the Japanese government, and sending peace messages to peoples in Japan as well as here in Canada.

## **The Significance of Article 9**

War has been a major moving factor throughout human history. Nations have strived to increase their military might, and this competition has increased the quantity and quality of weapons, resulting in the insane situation that humankind has now enough powerful weapons to kill themselves several times over.

It is about time that we realized that security and peace cannot be attained by use of force. Article 9 of the Japanese constitution recognizes this fact, and has succeeded in restraining for the last 60 years the Japanese from resorting to violence in resolving international disputes. Article 9 also reflects the Japanese remorse for its aggressive past, particularly against the neighboring countries in Asia.

It is a simple declaration, but would have a profound impact on the

future of humankind. We believe it deserves to be preserved and spread to other nations.

## **Let's Work Together for PEACE**

Our members are committed to do what we can in order to achieve our goals; not simply to keep Article 9 only in Japan but further send its peace message to the entire world.

Canada has been one of the world's most progressive peace-seeking nations. Former Prime Minister Lester Pearson initiated a negotiated settlement for international conflicts when he interceded in the dispute over Suez Canal and was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1957. Encouraged by Canada's tradition of peace, we wish to work together with Canadians to spread the pacifist ideal of Article 9 to the world in order to bring forth “PEACE ON EARTH”.

## **Contact Us**

For more information about VSA9 or if you would like to join us, please call one of the members below or email us.

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or visit <http://www.vsa9.com>

[The background characters in Japanese read: “Article 9”, “Peace” and “Constitution” from left to right. ]