

# 9/11: THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## Introduction

### Focus

Five years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the world has changed dramatically. This *News in Review* story looks at the significance of 9/11 from its tragic beginning five years ago to what it might mean for the world in the 21st century.

### Did you know . . .

Al Qaeda marked the fifth anniversary of 9/11 with a spate of videos showing the bombers preparing for their deadly mission. Al Qaeda leaders also warned of future attacks against Israel and the Gulf States.

Each day the boy would look out his classroom window in Brooklyn Heights with the comfort of knowing that his father was working on the other side of the East River in the World Trade Center's South Tower. But on this day all feelings of consolation were gone. For nine-year-old Nile Berry comfort was suddenly replaced by horror. As he looked across the river, he could see that both World Trade Center towers were on fire. Just after 10:00 a.m., the tower where Nile's father worked succumbed to the heat and flames that engulfed it and collapsed to the ground. Later that day, when David Berry failed to return home from work, the darkest of Nile's thoughts that day came to pass. His father, along with close to 3 000 others, was a victim of terrorism. Five years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the shock of the massive, precise, and horrifying assault on the U.S. is giving way to deeper analysis of what that fateful day means not only to people like Nile Berry and his family but also to people around the globe. Scholars are attempting to put the event in perspective to see what impact that day, and the subsequent "war on terror," has had on recent events and how it may shape the future.

### The War on Terror: Afghanistan

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, few nations really questioned the U.S.'s decision to go after Osama bin Laden via an attack on Afghanistan. In fact, Canada, like many other nations, pledged immediate assistance to the United States and joined it in Operation Enduring Freedom. Within months, the Taliban was ousted from power and the hunt was on for bin Laden in the

mountains along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

But some experts believe that, five years after the invasion of Afghanistan, the U.S. has botched the job, leaving NATO allies like Canada to do the dirty work of destroying the last vestiges of the Taliban regime and stabilizing a nation that is still poverty-stricken and in dire need of infrastructure development and financial aid. While the United States continues to scale back its troop commitment, many people wonder if any nation, including Canada, has the will to persevere in Afghanistan.

### The War on Terror: The U.S. Home Front

The attacks of 9/11 left the United States in a state of shock. The U.S. government did everything it could to mobilize its economic, political, and military resources to fight its new and elusive enemy. While U.S. troops were sweeping into Afghanistan, the Congress of the United States was passing the Patriot Act—a piece of legislation that dramatically expanded the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate alleged terrorists. The Patriot Act allowed agencies like the FBI to access phone, bank, and medical records of suspects without a judge's approval. Suddenly, the United States, the self-proclaimed bastion of civil rights, was willingly infringing on people's civil liberties, and the people were letting them do it. The Patriot Act was seen by many as a central component in the U.S.'s war on terror.

The citizenry and politicians of the United States rallied around President Bush in the first months after 9/11. However, many believed that, while

### Further Research

The text of the Patriot Act can be read at:  
[www.patriotact.com](http://www.patriotact.com).

acquiescence in the face of the Patriot Act might be acceptable, never challenging the President on vital issues was not acceptable. From the outset, many of the families of the victims of 9/11 wanted the government to hold a full-scale inquiry into the attacks on the U.S. The Bush administration initially dismissed the idea. However, after ongoing pressure was exerted by the families and the media, Bush set up what has come to be known as the 9/11 Commission. The commission was formed in late 2002 and published its report in the summer of 2004.

The 9/11 Commission concluded that vital information—information that could have helped to prevent the attacks on September 11, 2001—was deemed insignificant due to poor communication between U.S. government agencies like the FBI and the CIA. One of the Bush administration's security advisors on 9/11, Richard Clarke, testified before the commission. He claimed that he repeatedly warned of an Al Qaeda threat to the U.S. In one dramatic moment, he turned to some 9/11 family members gathered at the hearings and said, "Your government failed you, those entrusted with protecting you failed you, and I failed you. We tried hard, but that doesn't matter because we failed. And for that failure, I would ask—once all the facts are out—for your understanding and forgiveness" ([www.cbc.ca/news/background/sep11/clarke.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/sep11/clarke.html)).

### The War on Terror: Iraq

After removing the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, the United States shifted its attention to Iraq. In early 2003, a war of words erupted between the United States and Iraq. The U.S. made repeated claims that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction

(WMD), with Iraq repeatedly denying the claims. By March, the U.S. demonstrated a willingness to invade Iraq to find the WMDs unless Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, abandoned his presidency and left his country. Saddam said "no" and, on March 13, against an enormous wave of opposition from peace activists around the world, the United States, Great Britain, and the so-called "coalition of the willing" invaded Iraq. In May, Bush announced that the Iraqi conflict was over in his "Mission Accomplished" speech aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln*. Iraq was under the control of the U.S. and its coalition partners. No WMDs were ever found.

Despite the "mission accomplished" proclamation, the violence only escalated and the hope that Iraq would simply embrace democracy (and its U.S. liberators) has failed to materialize. To date, almost 3 000 U.S. soldiers have died in the conflict in Iraq.

### What does it all mean?

The "war on terror" has put the United States on shaky ground. The global community is weary of the U.S. tendency to beat the potentially hostile views of its opponents into the ground with the might of its military. Many commentators are very concerned with the trend that essentially pits the rich U.S. and its friends against poorer Muslim nations. To date, the war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq is far from over. With nations like Iran and North Korea boldly asserting themselves, many commentators predict that the U.S.'s war on terror is bound to expand to those countries. All these events and speculations occurred in the wake of an attack by a few extremists on a September day five years ago.

## **The Day that Changed the World**

One can only wonder if any of these things matter to Nile Berry, now a 14-year-old high-school student in the United States. He is the true face of the

consequences of terror, for he is the one who had to endure the terror of September 11, 2001. No one needs to tell him that 9/11 is the day that changed the world.

## **Questions**

1. Imagine the experience of Nile Berry on September 11, 2001. Pretend you are a friend of his and write words to comfort him after the death of his father.
2. Why do some critics think that the United States may have botched the job in Afghanistan?
3. Why did the United States invade Iraq? Was the campaign successful?
4. In what way has 9/11 changed your world?
5. What might the world be like if 9/11 had never happened?

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## Video Review

Watch the video and carefully respond to the questions in the space provided.

### Quote

Ground Zero burned for a hundred days. Five years on, the smoke has yet to clear on what will rise from the ashes." — Rosie Dimanno (*Toronto Star*, September 11, 2006)

1. What did the Centre for Defence Studies conclude on the afternoon of September 11, 2001?  
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2. According to Rashid Khalidi the people who organized the September 11 attacks have had their "expectations realized in spades." What does he mean by this?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What warning signs did Margaret MacMillan see prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Rashid Khalidi mean when he says fighting a war on terror is like fighting a war on weather?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did the Bush administration interpret their mandate to fight the war on terror in the months after September 11?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. a) Which country do the experts in the documentary claim was a legitimate target in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Which subsequent target do they think the U.S. may have had less forthright reasons to attack?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How has 9/11 been the centerpiece of everything the Bush administration has done since the attacks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why do some scholars believe that 9/11 may have been a turning point in world history?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What area of the world do the experts think North America needs to pay more attention to? Hint: Some believe these countries may soon be the economic, political, and military centre of the world.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Where were you when the news of 9/11 broke? How did you feel at that moment?  
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# 9/11: THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## *The Attacks of September 11, 2001*

Early on the morning of September 11, 2001, Mohamed Atta and Abdulaziz Alomari check out of their motel and make their way to the international airport in Portland, Maine. They arrive just in time to make their 6:00 a.m. flight from Portland to Boston. Around 8:00 a.m. they make their connection at Boston's Logan Airport, boarding American Airlines Flight 11 to Los Angeles. Three other members of their Al Qaeda terrorist cell are also on the flight. If all goes according to plan, three other planes will be in the hands of Al Qaeda operatives within the hour. All of the planes slated for hijacking are transcontinental flights destined for the U.S. West Coast. They are loaded with thousands of litres of jet fuel. The terrorists plan to turn the planes into giant missiles and slam them into targets deemed vital to the U.S.'s economic, political, and military interests.

The terrorists clear security checks at their respective airports and take their seats on board their flights:

- American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 depart from Logan. Both planes have five terrorists on board.
- American Airlines Flight 77 departs from Washington's Dulles International Airport. Flight 77 also has five terrorists on board.
- United Airlines Flight 93 takes off from Newark International Airport with four terrorists on board.

Shortly after takeoff each flight is hijacked by the terrorists, who wield knives, box cutters, mace, and pepper spray. They show a clear resolve to commandeer the planes and kill people

in the process. Here is an account of what happened to each aircraft:

- American Airlines Flight 11 — The plane takes off around 8:00 a.m. and is in the hands of hijackers within 15 minutes of departure. Shortly thereafter the aircraft's transponder is turned off and the plane veers off course and heads toward New York City. Boston air-traffic controllers make repeated efforts to contact the flight, but no response is received. Meanwhile, on board Flight 11, flight attendants Amy Sweeney and Betty Ong phone American Airlines personnel and report that two flight attendants and a passenger have been stabbed or had their throats slashed. They make it clear that hijackers have control of the plane. With Sweeney still on the phone with authorities, Flight 11 moves into Manhattan. "I see water. I see buildings," says Sweeney. "We are flying low. We are flying very, very low. We are flying way too low. Oh my God, we are way too low" ([www.theconversation.org/print.php?sid=138](http://www.theconversation.org/print.php?sid=138)). Little does the flight attendant know that Flight 11 has been on a collision course with the World Trade Center's North Tower for several minutes. The plane slams into the building, cutting a massive swath into the tower stretching from the 93rd to the 99th floor of the 110-storey skyscraper.
- United Airlines Flight 175 — Minutes before Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower, the hijackers commandeer the Los Angeles-bound United Airlines Flight 175. The terrorists turn off the plane's transponder, abruptly change the aircraft's course, and head toward New York, nearly colliding with a

### Quote

As a New Yorker, they were like our compass. They were our sun and our moon. And then, they were simply gone." — New Yorker Page Pantezzi, survivor of World Trade Center attacks (*Toronto Star*, September 11, 2006)

### Did you know . . .

The latest fatality figures from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 include: World Trade Center, North and South Towers: 2 602; the Pentagon: 125; passengers on board the four planes: 246; missing: 24; total (including the missing): 2 997. This does not include the 19 hijackers.

Delta Airlines flight in the process. At 9:03 a.m., Flight 175 crashes into the World Trade Center's South Tower between the 78th and 84th floor. Millions watch the event live on television.

- With two planes hijacked and intentionally crashed into targets in New York City, air-traffic controllers across the Eastern Seaboard of the United States are hyper-vigilant in their monitoring of flights in the air. The next flight to cause concern is American Airlines Flight 77, which changes course and heads toward Washington, D.C. Dulles air-traffic control watches carefully before noting the plane's rapid descent. Shortly after 9:30, Flight 77 slams into the Pentagon.
- United Airlines Flight 93 leaves Newark International Airport at 8:42 bound for San Francisco. The flight is slated to leave at 8:00, but heavy traffic at the airport delays its departure. At around 9:30 a.m., air-traffic control in Cleveland sends Flight 93—and all other planes in the vicinity—a dispatch warning them of a potential cockpit intrusion based on the events that occurred in New York a short time earlier. Before the pilots can secure the cockpit, the hijackers make their move. A struggle ensues, with the hijackers gaining control of the plane. Air-traffic controllers in Cleveland listen to a radio transmission of the struggle. The plane reverses course and heads toward Washington, D.C. Passengers and airline personnel contact family, friends, and co-workers on the ground and learn of the attacks on the World Trade Center. The passengers stage a revolt and attempt to win back control of the plane. Before they can do this, the hijackers crash the plane into a field

just outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This happens shortly after 10:00 a.m. Some eyewitnesses claim that the plane is upside down when it plummets into the ground. Experts agree that the likely target of Flight 93 is the White House or Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

The four attacks occur in less than 90 minutes, with all but Flight 93 hitting their targets. The results are devastating. The attacks on the World Trade Center's towers leave both buildings burning out of control. Shortly after 10:00 a.m., the South Tower collapses, reducing the building to a pile of rubble and sending a cloud of dust across Manhattan. Less than a half hour later, the North Tower falls. The death toll: 2 626 people. Meanwhile, at the Pentagon, authorities determine that a further 189 people have died. By the time all of the fatalities have been taken into consideration, including those on board the doomed flights, almost 3 000 people have been killed.

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, panic sweeps through the aviation community in the United States. Air-traffic controllers worry that anywhere from 11 to 29 planes flying over the United States may also be headed for targets around the country. As a result, the FAA grounds all planes and orders those in the air to land as soon as possible. They also divert all international flights destined for the United States to land in Canada. Over 200 planes land at Canadian airports in response to the closing of U.S. airspace. The planes stay on the ground until September 14, 2001.

Meanwhile, U.S. political, military, and intelligence officials attempt to make sense of what has happened. They immediately conclude that the attacks came from terrorists. Soon they assign

blame to Osama bin Laden, the leader of the Al Qaeda terrorist movement, who officials believe was responsible for the bombings of two American embassies in Africa in 1998 and the suicide bombing of the warship USS *Cole* in 2000. Osama bin Laden is believed to be living in Afghanistan. The U.S. begins planning to attack Afghanistan to oust his Taliban hosts and find the elusive Al Qaeda leader to bring him to justice. This marks the beginning of the “war on terror.”

Several days after the attacks, U.S. President George W. Bush makes an announcement to a joint session of Congress and the people of the United States. “Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen. It may include dramatic strikes, visible on TV, and covert operations, secret even in success. We will starve terrorists of funding, turn them one against another, drive them from place to place until

there is no refuge or no rest. And we will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. From this day forward, any nation that continues to harbour or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime” ([www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010920-8.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010920-8.html)).

And so from the dust, ash, and rubble of four plane crashes and the silent voices of nearly 3 000 dead, the United States vows to rid the world of terror. The words of George W. Bush to the joint session of Congress become a *de facto* proclamation of U.S. foreign policy. With a nation crying out for justice, the U.S. moves from a state of shock onto a war footing. The consequences of this move can only be judged by the retrospective lens of history in the years to come.

## Activity

1. Form a group of five.
2. You and your group are the government leaders of the United States. Read each paragraph of this article and decide how you will respond to the terrorist threats. Make notes on your discussion.
3. Read the last paragraph of the article. As a group, answer the following question: Is the war on terror justified based on the events your country has just experienced?
4. Be prepared to share your findings with your peers in other groups.

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## Canada Since 9/11

### Quote

"It is time to once again sing your praises, our friend, our neighbour, the true north strong and free." – U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice while visiting Canada to say thanks for Canadian support in the early days of the 9/11 attacks. (*Toronto Star*, September 12, 2006)

### Further Research

To stay informed about the rapidly changing Canadian mission to Afghanistan, consider regular visits to the following Web sites: NATO: [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int); ISAF: [www.jfcbs.nato.int/ISAF/index.htm](http://www.jfcbs.nato.int/ISAF/index.htm); the Canadian Forces ([www.forces.gc.ca/site/home\\_e.asp](http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/home_e.asp))

### Canada's Immediate Response

The U.S. government asked for Canada's help immediately after the attacks on September 11, 2001. Canada agreed to allow all international flights bound for the U.S. to land at Canadian airports that day. While 250 flights were able to return to their point of departure, 239 flights landed in Canada, with coastal airports taking on the bulk of the burden. Gander, Newfoundland, accepted close to 40 aircraft and 6 600 of the stranded passengers. The population of Gander is less than 10 000 people and, despite an enormous wave of visitors, managed to give their guests the sensitivity and hospitality they needed during a very trying time.

### Canada Pledges Support

A few days after the attacks Canada hosted a service on Parliament Hill attended by over 75 000 people. It was a gesture of support to our American neighbours. Similar services were held across Canada. Meanwhile the Canadian government went to work on protecting Canada and showing the U.S. that it was committed to protecting North America from further terrorist threats. Initially Canada pledged \$7.7-billion to fight terrorism as part of an anti-terrorism plan design to prevent the immigration of terrorists into Canada, to secure the Canadian border, and to protect the nation from terrorist acts.

### Legislation

Two pieces of legislation specifically made it easier for the Canadian government to deal with terrorist threats. The Anti-Terrorism Act improved law enforcement's ability to identify and prosecute individuals planning or

participating in terrorist acts. The Public Safety Act strengthened Canadian laws surrounding air travel and security as well as immigration. Both acts were passed in the fall of 2001. The government also moved to freeze the economic assets of any groups associated with terrorism.

### Canada's War on Terror

Canada put its military support behind the United States immediately after the attacks of September 11, 2001. A month after the attacks, the United States initiated Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Canada made a naval contribution and sent troops from the Princess Patricia Light Infantry to aid in the battle to oust the Taliban and capture Osama bin Laden. After opting to not participate in the U.S.-led war in Iraq, Canada increased its commitment to the war in Afghanistan. Operation Athena began in the summer of 2003 and extended until the winter of 2005. Canada worked with, and at one point led, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a coalition of NATO troops assigned to stabilize the new Afghan government and secure the city of Kabul. In spring 2006, Canadian troops shut down their base in Kabul and moved south to Kandahar to join the Multinational Brigade operating out of the Kandahar air base. Task Force Afghanistan saw Canada assume a combat role wherein Canadian troops actively sought and engaged Taliban forces in the areas around Kandahar. Currently, 2 500 troops have been assigned to the task force with the Canadian mission slated to extend to at least 2008.



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## *Terror Since 9/11*

Bali — On October 12, 2002, 13 months after the Al Qaeda attacks of 9/11, terrorists struck the tourist town Kuta on the Indonesian island of Bali. The terrorists targeted a nightclub district frequented by tourists with two deadly explosions, one involving a suicide bomber who detonated his bomb-laden backpack inside a crowded nightclub and the other a car bomb detonated as wounded patrons fled the nightclub where the first bomb exploded. A third bomb was detonated outside the U.S. Consulate, resulting in relatively minor damage. The death toll reached 202, with 209 people injured. Some of the more seriously injured were flown to the Australian cities of Perth and Darwin for treatment. Australians regard this as their 9/11 since almost half of the dead came from their country. Eventually, members of an extreme Islamist group called Jemmah Islamiyah were arrested, with three group members sentenced to death, one to life in prison, and the leader of the group, Abu Bakar Bashir, sentenced to two years in prison.

Madrid — During the morning rush hour on March 11, 2004, 10 explosions aboard four trains rocked the Madrid commuter train system, killing 191 people and injuring close to 2 000 others. The bombs were hidden in backpacks and were detonated with cell phones. All 10 of the bombs exploded within two minutes of each other as trains made their way along one of Madrid's main train lines. Initially authorities suspected an organization called ETA (*Euskadi ta Askatasuna*, which means "Basque Fatherland and Liberty"), a terrorist group identified as

Basque nationalists. However, suspicion eventually came to rest on a group of 29 Al Qaeda-inspired Islamic extremists. There were actually seven other suspects who police believe blew themselves up rather than face arrest when the investigation of Spanish authorities narrowed in on them.

London — On July 7, 2005, commuters on London's subway system were travelling to their intended destinations when three bombs on three separate trains were detonated by suicide bombers. Less than an hour later, another suicide bomber detonated his deadly payload aboard a double-decker bus in Tavistock Square. In all, 56 people were killed and hundreds of others were wounded. Three weeks later another four bombs were placed on three subway trains and a bus. Fortunately, these bombs failed to detonate and the four intended suicide bombers were eventually captured. Authorities believe that the suicide bombers of July 7 and the suspects in the July 21 bombing attempts were inspired by Muslim extremists in organizations like Al Qaeda.

### **Terror Thwarted**

Toronto — In early June 2006, police used close to 400 personnel from a variety of forces to arrest 17 people they believed were conspiring to stage terrorist attacks against a number of targets in Canada. The targets included CSIS headquarters and the CBC building in Toronto and Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The police had apparently been monitoring the group's activities for six months prior to their arrest. Red flags went up when the RCMP intercepted an order for three tonnes of ammonium

nitrate destined to be mixed with fuel oil and used in the construction of a bomb that was more powerful than the one used in the bombing of a U.S. government building in Oklahoma City in 1995. Police describe the suspects as “adherents of a violent ideology inspired by Al Qaeda” ([www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2006/06/03/suspects060603.html](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2006/06/03/suspects060603.html)). Eventually an 18th person was arrested in connection with the terrorist plot.

London — In August 2006, police in Britain arrested 11 people in connection with a conspiracy to blow up transatlantic jets in mid-air using liquid explosives. The public learned of the plot when London’s Heathrow Airport was suddenly closed, and travellers in other jurisdictions were told they could not bring liquids like bottles of water and toothpaste aboard flights. Eventually, 10 people were charged in the conspiracy.

The [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) Web site identifies a number of other Al Qaeda-linked terrorists acts besides the ones mentioned above. They are:

December 2004 — Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: An attack on the American Consulate kills five staff members and leaves four militants dead. The Saudi

wing of Al Qaeda claims responsibility.

April 2004 — Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Attacks in downtown Riyadh kill 10 people.

December 2003 — Istanbul, Turkey: Attacks on the British Consulate and HSBC bank offices in Istanbul kill 27 people.

December 2003 — Istanbul, Turkey: At least 23 people die in two suicide attacks on synagogues.

November 2003 — Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: A bombing kills at least 17 people at a housing complex a few kilometres from Riyadh’s diplomatic quarter.

August 2003: Jakarta, Indonesia: A suicide bomber kills 12 people at the J.W. Marriott hotel.

May 2003 — Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Casablanca, Morocco: At least 75 people are killed in one week in suicide attacks in the two cities.

November 2002 — Mombassa, Kenya: Sixteen people die at an Israeli-owned hotel.

April 2002 - Djerba, Tunisia: A blast outside a Tunisian synagogue kills at least 17 people.

Source: [www.cbc.ca/news/background/london\\_bombing/Alq\\_bombing.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/london_bombing/Alq_bombing.html)

## To Consider

1. What does this list of terror events suggest about the ongoing “war on terror”?
2. Nearly all of the incidents cited above are referred to as Al Qaeda-inspired or Al Qaeda-linked. How might referring to incidents as “inspired by” or “linked to” Al Qaeda be misleading? Explain fully.
3. In your opinion, how can this series of terror episodes be best brought to an end? Be specific.
4. What should Canada’s role be in the “war on terror”?

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## **Activity: Building Bridges**

In August 2006, Dr. Ahmed Farooq, a fourth-year medical resident at the University of Winnipeg, was flying back to school on a United Airlines flight after attending a physics course in San Francisco, California. He asked a fellow passenger to exchange seats with him so that he could pray closer to the window. They exchanged seats and Farooq began to pray. Born in Saudi Arabia, Farooq immigrated to Canada when he was 12.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, he had grown accustomed to suspicion from strangers both at home and abroad. But nothing could have prepared Farooq for what happened next. Unbeknownst to him, a fellow passenger had complained to the flight attendants. The next thing he knew, Farooq was escorted off the United Airlines plane in Denver, Colorado. Denver officials investigated the complaint and soon realized that the crew had overreacted and a mistake had been made. However, Farooq was stranded in Denver and told that he had to make his way back to Winnipeg at his own expense. This is what it has been like for many Muslims since 9/11.

### **Your Task**

The story of Dr. Ahmed Farooq demonstrates how the world has changed for many Muslims living in North America since 9/11. Too many people associate the terrorist acts of a few extremists with an entire group of faithfully religious people. Your task is to make connections with local Muslims and find out how their lives have changed since 9/11.

Here is what you need to do:

Interview a Muslim. Make a connection with a Muslim friend or family member. Engage in a conversation about life since 9/11. If you do not know a Muslim, contact your local mosque. The Muslim community in Canada estimates that close to 750 000 observe the religion of Islam.

Use the following questions as a basis for your interview:

- Describe your religious beliefs. What role do these beliefs play in your everyday life?
- Do you think Islam is misunderstood? If so, why?
- What do you find most inspiring about your religious beliefs?
- How has life changed for you or members of your community since 9/11?
- Do you feel the Muslim community is being unfairly judged by mainstream North American society? If yes, what needs to be done to change this perspective?
- What is your personal reaction to the events of September 11, 2001?
- How can mainstream Canada make peace with the Muslim community?

You can probably think of many other questions that you can ask in order to build bridges of peace with the Muslim community.

Either transcribe your interview or write a report highlighting the most important details of your interview. Share your findings with your peers.