

# KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

## Introduction

### Focus

This *News in Review* story looks at the birth of the nation of Kosovo on February 17, 2008. While many countries came out quickly to either recognize or denounce Kosovo's declaration of independence, Canada carefully measured its decision before weighing in on the issue a month later.

### Definition

*Ethnic cleansing* is a term used to describe a policy of removing people from an area by means of brutal military action, including genocide. It is a relatively new term born in the brutality of the Balkan Wars in the 1990s.

### Note

Slobodan Milosevic was arrested on war crimes charges in Belgrade in 2001. He stood trial at The Hague but died in prison in 2006 before a verdict was delivered.

A visibly distraught Dusan Batakovic, Serbia's ambassador to Canada, issued this stern warning to the Canadian people after Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia: "This dangerous precedent will obviously have a long-term effect on many separatist movements all over the globe, starting from the last corner of southeast Asia to the northernmost parts of America" (*Toronto Star*, March 18, 2008). From Batakovic's perspective, Kosovo's declaration of independence set a precedent for Quebec separatists. Despite federal efforts to establish laws regarding secession, Canada's endorsement of Kosovo's statehood opened the door for the Quebec sovereignty movement to seek its own unilateral declaration, the Serbian ambassador warned. To protest the Canadian government's decision, Ambassador Batakovic packed his bags and headed back to Belgrade to consult his superiors.

### Serbia and Kosovo

Prior to the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the country consisted of six republics and two autonomous provinces—each containing many different ethnic groups. Serbia was one of the republics, and Kosovo was one of the provinces. After the death of Yugoslavian leader Josip Broz Tito, the Balkans erupted in a series of civil wars, with each republic seeking autonomy and independence for its region. Once the dust settled, Yugoslavia had splintered into a cluster of new nations, including Serbia, which absorbed Kosovo into its boundaries. Events took on a particularly aggressive tone in the Balkans after the rise of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. The Serbian president pushed through repressive measures against non-

Serbs in his territory and made war on his neighbours. Milosevic targeted the people of Kosovo in particular. He eliminated Kosovo's autonomy and effectively legalized the persecution of Kosovars (ethnic Albanians). Kosovo fought back, initially through non-violent resistance to Serb rule and then with violent guerilla warfare under the leadership of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Both tactics proved unsuccessful against the might of the Serbian army. The Serbs rolled over Kosovo in the late 90s, driving 800 000 ethnic Albanians out of the region and killing an estimated 10 000 people in a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Once it became clear that the Serbs were resorting to ethnic cleansing to gain control of Kosovo, the international community took steps to thwart Milosevic's efforts. First, the Serb army was ordered to leave Kosovo. The Serbs refused to go. NATO stepped in and began a 78-day aerial-bombing campaign of Serbia that brought the nation to its knees. Eventually Milosevic ordered his troops out, and a NATO force of close to 50 000—including several hundred Canadians—was deployed to make sure the Serbs weren't tempted to return.

### The Birth of Kosovo

The nation of Kosovo was born out of the ashes of the conflict with Serbia. The international community viewed the actions of Slobodan Milosevic and his Serbian comrades as savage, immoral, and sadistic. By most accounts, Kosovo was the clear victim of a brutal aggressor. International sympathy would serve to both protect the war-torn region and to facilitate the introduction of measures that would bring about independence. Once it became clear that Serbian territorial claims had faded,

control of the region was transferred from NATO to the UN, with a multinational contingent of soldiers protecting the peace in Kosovo.

In the interim, politicians from Kosovo worked closely with the UN to lay the foundations for a new nation. But the process moved slowly. The people of Kosovo had hoped that, after witnessing the atrocities of the war with Serbia, the international community would usher in nationhood quickly. Eventually the UN dispatched special envoy Martti Ahtisaari to see if he could mediate an independence agreement between Kosovo and Serbia. Several rounds of negotiations ended in futility. Kosovo would agree to nothing short of independence, and Serbia would not agree to any deal that included independence.

By the fall of 2007, political pressure from within Kosovo forced the issue onto the international agenda. As the year came to a close, Kosovo prepared to declare independence based on the recommendations of Ahtisaari, which included EU supervision and protection of ethnic Serbian rights within the new republic. Despite threatening rhetoric from Serbia and Russia, and vows of diplomatic reprisals, the politicians of Kosovo held firm. On February 17, 2008, they unilaterally declared their nation's independence.

### **International Reaction**

Britain, the United States, and France came out quickly to recognize Kosovo's

independence, while Serbia and Russia came out just as quickly against the unilateral declaration. Britain, the U.S., and France felt that the declaration was another victory for democracy; Serbia protested that Kosovo was part of their territory and that Kosovar efforts to form a breakaway republic constituted a violation of international law. Meanwhile, the Russians threw their support behind Serbia, vowing to block any effort by Kosovo to join the UN.

Canadian politicians waited anxiously as most of their allies rallied behind the fledgling nation. Canada faced a dilemma. Would recognition of Kosovo give Quebec sovereignists a precedent for unilateral separation? A month after Kosovo declared its nationhood, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Bernier, announced Canada's position: Kosovo's independence would be recognized because the decision to form a nation was based on unique circumstances emerging from the Balkan civil wars of the 1990s. According to this logic, separatists would not have grounds to secede unilaterally with Kosovo as their inspiration because Quebec had not endured the degree of bloodshed suffered by Kosovars.

And so a new political world emerged in February 2008. The new republic of Kosovo would see if it could emerge as a prosperous and viable nation, while the government of Canada cautiously hoped that recognition of Kosovo would not reignite the hopes of sovereignists in Quebec.

### **Questions**

1. Why did the Serbian ambassador pack his bags and head back to Belgrade?
2. What dangerous precedent did he feel was set when Canada recognized Kosovo?
3. Make a point-form list of the events that led to Kosovo's freedom.
4. Who opposed Kosovo's declaration of independence? Why?
5. Why did Canada wait a month to recognize Kosovo's independence?
6. What new political world emerged in February 2008?

# KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

## *Video Review*

Watch the video and answer the following questions.

1. Why did Kosovo's declaration of independence cause anxiety in Canada?

---

2. Why is Kosovo considered a flashpoint of territorial tension?

---

3. Describe the mood of the people of Kosovo regarding independence.

---

---

4. What percentage of people living in Kosovo are ethnic Albanians? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Identify some of the problems that emerged in the Balkans in the 1990s.

---

---

6. How did NATO stop the persecution of Kosovars by Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian army?

---

7. How many people died in the war that eventually led to Kosovo's independence?

---

8. What was Serbia's reaction to Kosovo's declaration of independence?

---

9. What issues will the new nation of Kosovo have to deal with as it tries to show the world it is worthy of nationhood?

---

---

10. a) Who will supervise Kosovo's new government?

---

b) What will this mean for the government of Kosovo?

---

11. Why did Canada wait to recognize Kosovo?

---

---



# KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

## *Profile of Kosovo*



Why would the geographic position of Kosovo make its political problems critical to other nations? In your view what are the positive and negative aspects of Kosovo's geographic location?

---

### **Geography**

Official Name: Republic of Kosovo

Capital: Pristina

Area: 10 887 square kilometres (roughly double the size of Prince Edward Island)

Land boundaries: Total – 702 km (Serbia, 352 km; Albania, 112 km; Macedonia, 159 km; Montenegro, 79 km)

Water: Kosovo is a landlocked nation bordering on Serbia, Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro.

### **People**

Population: 2 126 708

Ethnic Groups: Albanians 88 per cent; Serbs 7 per cent; Other (Bosniak, Gorani, Roma, Turk, Ashkali Egyptian) 5 per cent

Nationality: Ethnic Albanians are referred to as Kosovars while ethnic Serbians are referred to as Kosovacs.

Religions: Muslim, Serbian Orthodox, and Roman Catholic

Languages: Albanian and Serbian are the nation's official languages; in some areas Bosniak, Turkish and Roma are spoken.

### **Government**

Type: Republic

Formed: February 17, 2008

Constitution: To be written; it will be based on the recommendations made by United Nations' envoy Martti Ahtisaari prior to Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence.

Voting age: Any citizen over the age of 18

Legislature: The Kosovo Assembly

Head of State: President Fatmir Sejdiu

Head of Government: Prime Minister Hashim Thaci

Cabinet: Elected by the Kosovo Assembly

### **Economy**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$3- to \$4-billion (approx.)

GDP growth rate: 3 per cent

GDP per capita: \$1 800  
Labour force: 832 000  
Largest labour sector: Agriculture (21 per cent); analysts note that Kosovo is presently shifting away from agriculture to a market-based economy.  
Unemployment rate: 43 per cent

Population living below the poverty line: 37 per cent  
Inflation rate: 2 per cent  
Currency: Euro (the Serbian dinar is used in regions bordering on Serbia)

Source: Central Intelligence Agency  
*World Factbook*: Kosovo (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>)

## Research

Compare Canada with Kosovo based on the main categories listed in the profile above. What similarities do you notice between the two countries? What differences do you notice? Use this organizer to frame your research and be prepared to share your findings orally.

Two sources you can use are Statistics Canada ([www.statscan.ca](http://www.statscan.ca)) and the CIA *World Factbook* ([www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook)).

Comparison between Canada and Kosovo	
<b>Major Similarities</b>	
<b>Major Differences</b>	

# KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

## *Balkan Timeline*

### Did you know...

Turkey is the nation most associated with the Ottoman Empire. At its height, the Ottoman Turks' kingdom stretched across three continents.

Read the following timeline and complete the activity that follows.

**1389** Serbs lose a war with the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Kosovo.

**1815** Serbia wins limited freedom from the Ottoman Empire.

**1919** In the aftermath of the First World War, Yugoslavia—an amalgam of over 20 ethnic groups—is created.

**1946** A new constitution is drafted in the aftermath of the Second World War. Yugoslavia is divided into six politically equal republics. Kosovo is not granted republic status but is given regional autonomy.

**1968** Pro-independence demonstrations take place in Kosovo; Yugoslavian police make many arrests.

**1974** Kosovo is declared an autonomous province, with the majority Albanian population exercising almost complete control of the region.

**1980** Yugoslavian leader and dictator Josip Broz Tito dies.

**1981** Mass independence demonstrations take place in Kosovo.

**1989** Serbian Communist Party leader Slobodan Milosevic becomes president of the Republic of Serbia; Milosevic pushes through repressive laws and eliminates autonomy for Kosovo.

**1991** Yugoslavia disintegrates, shrinking to include Serbia and Montenegro and losing Croatia, Albania, and Slovenia to independence in a series of civil wars; Kosovo declares itself an independent republic. Only Albania recognizes Kosovo's independence.

**1992** Ibrahim Rugova encourages Kosovars to practise non-violent, passive resistance to Serb rule to stem off a violent clampdown by Milosevic.

**1995** The Dayton Peace Accord ends the war in Bosnia, but peace in Kosovo remains in limbo.

**1996** The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) is formed and begins attacking Serbian police targets.

**Spring 1998** Serb police retaliate, killing dozens of suspected separatists; meanwhile, the people of Serbia overwhelmingly reject international mediation in a national referendum.

**Summer 1998** The KLA takes control of 40 per cent of Kosovo; the Serbs respond with deadly force, destroying villages and, in one case, killing 22 ethnic Albanians in central Kosovo.

**Fall 1998** NATO authorizes air strikes against Serbian military targets to stem Serbia's ethnic-cleansing campaign.

**Winter 1999** The international community calls for a war-crimes investigation after learning of the massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians outside Racak, Kosovo, by Serb troops.

**Spring 1999** Belgrade rejects a peace deal offered by the international community; NATO begins a 78-day air bombardment campaign to bring Serbia into compliance. Meanwhile Serb forces push 800 000 ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo into neighbouring Albania and Macedonia. Eventually, Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic pulls Serbian troops out of Kosovo, and NATO sends peacekeepers, including Canadians, to occupy the war-torn province. While ethnic Albanians return to their homes, many ethnic Serbians flee Kosovo to avoid reprisals.

**Fall 2000** Slobodan Milosevic is forced to resign.

### Further Research

For a more in-depth analysis of Kosovo and the Balkans, consider a visit to [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) and the feature CBC News In Depth: "Balkans" ([www.cbc.ca/news/background/balkans/workman.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/balkans/workman.html)). The CBC Digital Archives also presents an audio-visual feature on Canada's military participation in the region in the file "The Kosovo Question" ([http://archives.cbc.ca/war\\_conflict/defence/clips/10401/](http://archives.cbc.ca/war_conflict/defence/clips/10401/)).

### Did you know . . .

The nations of Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Croatia, and Herzegovina emerged out of the former Yugoslavia.

**2001** Milosevic is extradited to The Hague on war-crimes charges by Serbian authorities; the former Serbian president dies in prison before a verdict is rendered.

**2002** Now a UN protectorate but still an autonomous region of Serbia, Kosovo elects a parliament with Ibrahim Rugova as the leader; Rugova dies four years later of lung cancer.

**2006** The UN initiates negotiations aimed at bringing independence to Kosovo; the Serbs respond by holding a referendum wherein Kosovo is declared an integral part of Serbia.

**2007** UN envoy Martti Ahtisaari releases his recommendations regarding the establishment of an independent Kosovo; Serbia rejects the recommendations and refuses to participate in any negotiations that call for Kosovan independence.

**February 17, 2008** After a rocky 2007 that saw Serbia and Russia challenge the UN at every turn regarding Kosovan independence, the government of Kosovo—with the backing of the U.S. and many influential members of the European Union—unilaterally declares independence from Serbia. Serbia claims that the declaration violates international law as well as UN resolutions.

**2008** The Serbian parliament is dissolved on March 8, and new elections are called for May 11. The key issue is how to respond to the independence of Kosovo.

Sources: "Timeline – Kosovo Independence," [www.cbc.ca/news/background/balkans/kosovo-timeline](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/balkans/kosovo-timeline); "Balkans Timeline – 1389-1999/1999-Present," [www.cbc.ca/news/background/balkans](http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/balkans)

### Activity

Use the timeline to write a newspaper report that outlines the history of Kosovo's drive for independence. Focus on the events that you believe are most important in the campaign for independence.

Length of report: 300-500 words

# KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

## *The Story Behind the Story*

**Did you know . . .** Kosovo has a small Serbian minority in the north that has itself suffered reprisal attacks at the hands of the Albanian majority in Kosovo. Serbia is very anxious to protect this group of people, and some Serbs think that this area should itself be separated from an independent Kosovo. What do you think?

Recognition of Kosovo's independence was never going to be an easy process. Serbia still considers Kosovo to be its spiritual homeland, with the roots of this idea stretching back hundreds of years. In the famous Battle of Kosovo in 1389, Serb forces lost a key battle to the Ottoman Turks, signaling the beginning of the end for the medieval Serbian empire. It wasn't until 1815 that the Serbs achieved a degree of autonomy from their Turkish rulers—with full freedom coming about a hundred years later. Out of the Battle of Kosovo, the Serbs developed a folklore that recognized the province of Kosovo as the cradle of Serb civilization.

However, folklore and history have a tendency to collide awkwardly. In the case of Kosovo, while Serbian children learned of the bravery demonstrated by their ancestors in the Battle of Kosovo, the population of the region was shifting from predominantly Serb to ethnic Albanian. By the time Slobodan Milosevic came to power, Kosovo was almost 90 per cent Albanian. In other words, the clear majority of the population of Kosovo had no connection to the Serbian folklore stemming from the famous battle of 1389 and certainly didn't see itself as Serbian.

For his part, Milosevic tapped into the last vestiges of Serbian nationalist sentiment surrounding Kosovo. Despite the reality that Kosovo was now an ethnic Albanian province, Milosevic used the full power of the Serbian army to try to put the province back into the hands of the Serbs. His efforts failed because the international community stepped in to protect Kosovo. By the time the last NATO bomb was dropped on Serbia,

Kosovo had become an international protectorate. Any hope that Serbia had of regaining the land of their ancestors was lost.

Within two years of Serbia's withdrawal from Kosovo, Milosevic was shipped off to The Hague on war-crimes charges, and the new Serbian government was taking steps to join the European Union (EU). Joining the EU would provide a major boost to the Serbian economy and restore its credibility on the international stage. While last-ditch efforts were taken to preserve Kosovo's status as a Serbian province, the momentum toward independence—due largely to powerful international support—could not be halted. The UN attempted to mediate a negotiated agreement between Serbia and Kosovo, but it became clear that the Serbs were not prepared to accept the independence of Kosovo in any form. By the fall of 2007, with negotiations deemed an utter failure and the patience of the people of Kosovo wearing thin, independence was seen as imminent.

On February 17, 2008, Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence. Serbia protested by recalling its ambassadors from any countries that recognized the new nation, and Russia vowed to block all efforts to give Kosovo a seat at the United Nations. No doubt a period of conflict between Serb hard-liners looking to find a way to get Kosovo back and Serb moderates seeking to bring Serbia into the EU will mark the next phase in Serbian politics. In the meantime, Kosovo is an independent nation, and Serbia has no realistic chance of reversing this new political reality.

## Questions

1. Why is the Battle of Kosovo considered such an important historic event for the Serbians?
2. How did folklore and history collide in Kosovo?
3. How did Slobodan Milosevic tap into Serb nationalism to gain control of Kosovo?
4. What debt does Kosovo owe the international community for its role in the independence movement?
5. What organization is Serbia hoping to join? Why is this important for the prosperity of everyday Serbians?
6. How do you think Serbia should respond to Kosovo's independence?

# KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

## *Recognizing Kosovan Independence*

### Further Research

To stay informed about Kosovo, consider a visit to the official Web sites of NATO ([www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)), the United Nations ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)), and the European Union ([http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)).

### Key Supporters of Kosovo's Declaration of Independence

Britain, the United States, and France were the strongest supporters of independence for Kosovo. All three nations pushed for independence through NATO, the UN, and the EU. Even when it became clear that Russia was not going to budge on the question of nationhood, the three countries stuck to their agenda and eventually backed Kosovo's decision to unilaterally declare its independence.

While the majority of Canada's strongest allies came out early to support the new nation of Kosovo, Canadian politicians waited a month before recognizing Kosovo. Politicians feared that too quick a recognition could inspire Quebec separatists to seek a unilateral declaration of independence in the future. Once the decision was made to recognize Kosovo, politicians were quick to point out that Kosovo's suffering during the civil war of the 1990s made its nationhood a unique situation with no resemblance to the sovereignist movement in Quebec.

### Key Opponents of Kosovo's Declaration of Independence

Serbia is the most obvious opponent of Kosovo's independence. In the post-Milosevic era, Serbian leaders drafted a new constitution that declared Kosovo an

“integral part” of Serbia. In the lead-up to the declaration in February 2008, Serb politicians protested vehemently that a unilateral declaration of independence violated international law because Kosovo was a part of Serbia's territory. Nations like Britain, the U.S., and France argued that Kosovo had been under UN control since 1999 and that any Serbian claims to Kosovo had vanished once international troops came in to occupy the region. Serbia countered that UN resolution 1244—the resolution that ended the war in Kosovo in 1999—as well as precedents established under international law, gave it a legal claim to Kosovo.

Russia, a longtime ally of Serbia, came to its defence. Russia argued that recognition of Kosovo set a precedent for any number of separatist groups seeking to break away from member countries of the United Nations. Russia's battle with Chechen separatists has been well documented. Canada, Spain, Romania, Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, and Slovakia are also countries dealing with separatist elements trying to form their own nations. China is yet another nation that is dealing with groups seeking to assert independence. Examples there include the long-running feud with Taiwan and recent unrest in Tibet.

### Activity

1. Review the chart on the next page.
2. Highlight the nations in the chart that were mentioned in the article above. Why did each of these nations choose to recognize or not recognize Kosovo's declaration of independence?
3. Put an asterisk (\*) beside the three countries that you believe represent:  
a) the greatest allies of Kosovo and b) the greatest enemies of Kosovo.  
Explain your conclusions (one sentence for each choice).

4. Put two asterisks (\*\*) beside the nations that are dealing with separatist movements within their own countries. Why do you think each nation either recognized or did not recognize Kosovo (one sentence per choice)?
5. Many nations that have not recognized Kosovo are studying the situation. Why might a nation make an announcement telling the world that they are intentionally waiting before they recognize a new nation like Kosovo?
6. Highlight the nation that you believe has the greatest to lose by recognizing the new nation of Kosovo. Explain your choice in three to five sentences.

<b>International Reaction</b>			
<b>Countries that recognize Kosovo's independence</b>		<b>Countries that do not recognize Kosovo's independence</b>	
Afghanistan	Latvia	Algeria	Mexico
Albania	Liechtenstein	Argentina	Moldova
Australia	Lithuania	Armenia	Montenegro
Austria	Luxembourg	Azerbaijan	Morocco
Belgium	Malaysia	Bangladesh	Mozambique
Bulgaria	Monaco	Belarus	New Zealand
Canada†	Netherlands	Bolivia	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Norway	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Pakistan
Croatia	Peru	Brazil	Panama
Denmark	Poland	Chile	Paraguay
Estonia	Senegal	China	Philippines
Finland	Slovenia	Columbia	Portugal
France	South Korea	Cuba	Romania
Germany	Sweden	Cyprus	Russia
Hungary	Switzerland	Egypt	San Marino
Iceland	Taiwan	Georgia	Serbia
Ireland	Turkey	Greece	Singapore
Italy	United Kingdom	India	Slovakia
Japan	United States	Indonesia	South Africa
		Iran	Spain
		Iraq	Sri Lanka
		Israel	Sudan
		Jordan	Tajikistan
		Kazakhstan	Thailand
		Kuwait	Uganda
		Kyrgyzstan	Ukraine
		Laos	Uruguay
		Libya	Uzbekistan
		Mali	Venezuela
		Malta	Vietnam
			Zambia

Source: "Who recognizes Kosovo?" [www.kosovothanksyou.com](http://www.kosovothanksyou.com)

†Canada formally recognized Kosovo's independence on March 18, 2008

# KOSOVO DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

## *Activity: Recognizing Kosovo*

### Quote

“Imagine that Quebec, for instance, proclaims independence in the same way that Kosovo did, unilaterally. Would Ottawa then recognize Quebec as an independent country? How would it react if other countries, without notifying Ottawa, recognize an independent Quebec?”— Dusan Batakovic, Serbian Ambassador to Canada (*Toronto Star*, March 19, 2008)

### Background

The decision to recognize the new nation of Kosovo was not an easy one for the government of Canada. The prospect of separation in 1980 and 1995 put the nation into a state of trauma that demonstrated the fragile nature of national unity. So when Kosovo declared that it was no longer part of Serbia, Canada needed to take stock to make sure it was not sending the wrong message to separatists in Quebec who continue to seek to break away from the Canadian union. Kosovo’s independence bid did not have the backing of the United Nations, and it certainly didn’t have a shred of support from Serbia. Canadian politicians had to ask: what if the situation was reversed? What if Quebec declared its independence from Canada without the support of the United Nations and in direct violation of Canadian law?

Canadian politicians took a month to think about the prospect before weighing in on the issue. After much deliberation, Canada decided to follow the lead of its allies and recognize Kosovo. The rationale: Kosovo had paid for its freedom with the blood of its people after Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian army’s attempt at ethnic cleansing in the 1990s. Any comparison to Canada’s conflict with Quebec separatists lacked this brutal and tragic element.

### Your Task

Assume you are the prime minister of Canada. You need to decide whether or not to recognize the independence of Kosovo. Your job is to write a speech that clearly states your decision and explains the reasoning behind your conclusions. Make sure you specifically refer to Quebec in your speech, explaining how the efforts by some Quebec separatists influenced your decision. Keep in mind that you are not bound to follow the lead of the Canadian government in 2008. In other words, you are free to either recognize or not recognize Kosovo.

### Instructions

#### Preparation

Use the information found in this *News in Review* story as background research for your speech.

1. List three convincing reasons why Canada should recognize Kosovo.\*
2. List three convincing reasons why Canada should not recognize Kosovo.\*
3. Decide on whether or not you will recognize Kosovo.
4. Prepare your speech.
5. Write your speech based on the information you have gathered. (Length of speech: 300-500 words)
6. Either hand in your speech to your teacher or read your speech to the class.

\*A good speechwriter knows the pros and cons of any argument. Where possible your speech should refute the arguments against your position.