

Commitments made
Commitments kept



Canada's
Contribution
as Chair of
the Summit
of the Americas



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Enquiries Service (SXGI)
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Tel.: 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free) or (613) 944-4000

Fax: (613) 996-9709

E-mail: enqserv@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

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Message from the Prime Minister

It has been an honour for Canada to serve as chair of the Summit of the Americas process over the past three years. Argentina has now officially taken over this privilege and responsibility as of June 9, 2003.

Canada was pleased to host the 34 democratically elected leaders of the Americas in Quebec City, in April 2001, to address common challenges. We made a series of commitments in the Quebec City Declaration and Plan of Action to strengthen democracy, create prosperity and realize human potential.

You will find more information about these commitments and the progress that has been achieved since the Quebec City Summit in the pages that follow. One of the most significant achievements has been the creation and adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter in September 2001. The Charter has since played an important role in assisting the Hemisphere face challenges to democracy.

Canada is fortunate to be part of the Americas. We will continue to work closely with our partners to advance democracy, social development and prosperity within the Americas in the years to come.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jean Chrétien". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada

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Prime Minister Chrétien, Heads of State, Government and Delegation at the Citadelle, Quebec City, April 2001.

Strengthening Democracy

From April 20 to 22, 2001, in Quebec City, Canada hosted the Third Summit of the Americas, a meeting of the Western Hemisphere's 34 democratically elected Heads of State and Government.

Summits of the Americas are held to discuss the state of the region and to devise a plan of action for guiding governments in their efforts to work collectively in improving the lives of the peoples of the Hemisphere. The Quebec City Summit addressed a wide variety of issues, including democracy, human rights, justice, the rule of law, human security, civil society, gender equality, Indigenous peoples, the environment, migration, health, education, cultural diversity and trade—all issues of concern to Canada and to the wider community of the Americas.

The Quebec City Summit resulted in a Declaration and detailed Plan of Action, making major commitments and launching an impressive set of initiatives. These were grouped under 18 major headings, all of which contribute to strengthening democracy, creating prosperity, and realizing human potential.

The quintessential achievement of the Quebec City Summit, the "Democracy Clause," stated that respect for democracy is the *sine qua non* for participation in the Summit process. Foreign Ministers then negotiated an Inter-American Democratic Charter, which sent a powerful signal that democracy is the fundamental defining value for our Hemisphere. Together, the Clause and the Charter set new standards forming the basis for further cooperation by countries of the Americas. Whatever differences may arise, all agree that democratic institutions and practices are vital to progress.



Signature page of the Declaration of Quebec City

A Hemispheric Framework for Democracy

Canada has been a consistently strong voice for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, peace-building, human security, and the advancement of democratic values in the Hemisphere. Canadians can feel pride, and confidence for the future, in knowing that their values are shared throughout the Hemisphere. The willingness of countries in the region to adopt the Democracy Clause and create the Democratic Charter was unprecedented. The Charter has been tested several times since its adoption in September 2001, and has quickly become a key feature of the inter-American architecture. The existence of the Charter led to

an Organization of American States (OAS) process in Haiti that prevented further deterioration in that country's situation. In Venezuela, Charter invocation signalled the Hemisphere's zero tolerance for coups and opened a dialogue led by OAS Secretary General César Gaviria during more recent tensions in that country. The Charter was also evoked in 2002 by the Nicaraguan government in its fight against corruption, and it served as a guiding force towards the peaceful resolution of tensions in Bolivia in early 2003. Each incident has demonstrated that the framework is a sturdy one. Not only has there been a greater shift towards democracy in much of the Hemisphere, but a stronger commitment exists to uphold democracy, realize its full potential and address any threat to its viability.



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The Summit process also serves as a catalyst, increasing awareness of the richness of the Hemisphere's legal and judicial systems while enhancing the effectiveness of the multilateral approach to realizing the potential of each system.

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Canada places the protection and promotion of human rights at the forefront of engagement with the Americas. It continues to play an active role in promoting human rights in the Hemisphere.

The Quebec City Summit Plan of Action mandated concrete measures to strengthen the inter-American human rights system, particularly through efforts to support the functioning of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. These measures have been carried out successfully. Canada was pleased to introduce the OAS resolution encouraging member states to ensure that both key hemispheric human rights institutions be given adequate resources to perform their duties.

Justice, Rule of Law and Security of the Individual

The Summit of the Americas process affords jurists throughout the Hemisphere the opportunity to exchange ideas on how to combat crime while respecting the rule of law and ensuring the security of the individual. The Summit process also serves as a catalyst, increasing awareness of the richness of the Hemisphere's legal and judicial systems while enhancing the effectiveness of the multilateral approach to realizing the potential of each system.

Ongoing initiatives seek better communication among hemispheric experts in jurisprudence and penal systems. With better understanding of the systems of each member country, the level of cooperation improves and judicial experts can respond more appropriately to diverse demands for assistance. In addition, democracy is strengthened as justice is more accessible to citizens and government effectiveness is enhanced. As a direct outcome of the Summit, Canada is actively working through the Justice Studies Centre of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, to advance judicial reform in the region.

In the Quebec City Summit Declaration, Leaders acknowledged that corruption “undermines core democratic values, challenges political stability and economic growth and thus threatens vital interests in our Hemisphere.” This led to the establishment of the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. The Follow-Up Mechanism promotes the effective implementation of the Convention, monitors progress made on corruption issues and serves as a forum for the exchange of best practices. The First Round of Review is under way. In February 2003, the Committee of Experts approved the “Report on the Implementation in the Republic of Argentina of the provisions of the Convention selected for review within the framework of the first round”; this document has been published.

In October 2002, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption was created. A complementary initiative by Canadian Members of Parliament has created Latin American Parliamentarians Against Corruption. This network, with support from the Canadian International Development Agency, is committed to fighting corruption “from the inside” by supporting strong anti-corruption legislation and holding the governments of participating parliamentarians accountable for their actions.

Parliamentarians Work Together

Before the Quebec City Summit, parliamentarians from throughout the Americas had already been working together to enhance their capacity for contributing to hemispheric civil society. At an Ottawa meeting held in March 2001, they inaugurated the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas.

Currently chaired by Canada, the Forum has developed a unique voice and plays a key part in the Summit of the Americas process. Parliamentarians are at the centre of the concept of modern governance, which is based on the idea of partnership. They have an important role to play in strengthening democracy by ensuring that hemispheric cooperation will be based on a balanced plan of action that reflects the preoccupations of the citizens of the Americas.

Creating a Civil Society That Spans the Hemisphere

In assuming the Chair of the Summit, Canada understood the importance of engaging citizens in the project of building a community of the Americas. One of the highlights of Canada’s mandate as Chair was the further opening up of the Summit process. The result has been an unprecedented degree of participation by Canadians, along with citizens from throughout the Hemisphere.

The Canadian vision of transparency and engagement is being embraced by our partners in the Summit process. From the Fifth Meeting of Trade Ministers (Toronto, Ontario, 1999), through the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (Windsor, Ontario, 2000) to the Quebec City Summit (2001), the scale of contributions made by civil society organizations has grown strikingly.

With Canada as Chair, the lead-up to Quebec City featured an unprecedented level of dialogue with civil society organizations in Canada and throughout the Hemisphere. As a result, the concerns of these groups were taken into consideration in the development of the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action. Further reflecting our values of engagement and transparency, Canada invited 60 organizations from Canada and the Americas to participate in the Quebec City Summit, at a round table discussion with Foreign Ministers from the Hemisphere. In short, by advocating citizen participation, Canada has been recognized for genuinely helping to change the way the Hemisphere organizes itself.

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CIDA Photo: Brian Atkinson

Bolstering Hemispheric Security

The Quebec City Plan of Action called for a Special Conference on Security to be held by 2004, with a view to concluding a review of all issues related to approaches to Hemispheric security. Following the tragic events in the United States on September 11, 2001, this conference was advanced to late 2003. In addition, the events of September 11 revitalized the fledgling Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE), an OAS institution. The Committee quickly took stock of the ability of states to guard against terrorism and identify areas needing to be strengthened.

The Plan of Action also called upon states to become party to international agreements related to the fight against terrorism. Canada participated actively in the creation of a new instrument, the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, and was the first to ratify it in December 2002. All of its provisions have already been implemented. Canada also contributed significantly to the second (2002) and third (2003) regular sessions of CICTE, which further strengthened hemispheric cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Canada helped fund CICTE development of an on-line reference and referral database system for both government entities and specialized experts on terrorism issues in the Americas.

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In an age of globalization and regional integration, there is a need to consider how to address threats that affect people, states, regions and the world as a whole in order to consolidate hemispheric security.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Canada was the driving force behind the Americas Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility—the first meeting of its kind, held in Miami from September 22 to 24, 2002. The conference had been mandated by Leaders in the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action. It was attended by more than 500 participants from 28 countries, representing all sectors of society, including government, the private sector, civil society and multilateral organizations.

A notable Conference achievement was a renewed commitment from multilateral organizations (including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and the World Bank) to support the efforts of governments, civil society and business leaders towards creating a favourable framework for socially responsible corporate activities. It was also recognized that governments can help businesses operate responsibly by providing good governance, regulatory certainty and support for voluntary corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Canada has been a leader in the fight against drugs in the Americas—both within the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and in developing the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, which provides a peer-review mechanism for monitoring the progress of individual and collective efforts of member countries. In December 2002, Canada was elected CICAD Vice-Chair, and will host the CICAD session in autumn 2003, when it takes the chair. In recent years, Canada's annual contributions to CICAD have supported initiatives related to the fight against drugs, including training for judges and prosecutors on money laundering, and support for the Andean Community Regional Anti-Drug School.

Canada is committed to cooperation in the fight against money laundering. Canada is a Cooperating and Supporting Nation of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), an organization that implements anti-money laundering measures on a coordinated basis. Canada provided financial support to the 2002–03 CFATF Typologies exercises, and it contributed training in handling the proceeds of crime under the Caribbean Anti-Money Laundering Program.

Canada was the driving force behind the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention) and ensured that the Santiago (Chile) and Quebec City Summits supported this initiative. The Americas are poised to become the first mine-free hemisphere: 33 of the 34 Summit countries have signed the Ottawa Convention, and 32 have ratified it to date. Canada has taken on several initiatives to ensure that the Hemisphere succeeds in implementing the Convention, that the needs of mine-affected communities are met and that more resources are allocated to mine action.

In recent years, it has been recognized that security encompasses both matters of territorial integrity and national sovereignty, as well as emerging, non-traditional threats to the state and to the safety, security and well-being of people in the region. In an age of globalization and regional integration, there is a need to consider how to address threats that affect people, states, regions and the world as a whole in order to consolidate hemispheric security. Canada has been at the forefront of efforts to expand traditional security concepts and approaches in order to address new and non-traditional threats; these include political, economic, social, health and environmental challenges that can endanger individuals and societies, and can compromise the ability of legitimate democratic governments to govern effectively.

Creating Prosperity

The ongoing Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations are an integral part of the larger Summit of the Americas process. With an agenda focused on creating prosperity, the proposed FTAA complements Summit initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy and realizing human potential. The FTAA is the most visible element of the Summit process, and its principal objective is to attain growth and development through enhanced economic integration in order to meet the Summit's broader goals.

Labour and Employment

The FTAA talks are only a means to an end: the creation of jobs and prosperity throughout the Hemisphere. Within the context of the FTAA negotiations and beyond, Canada is committed to ensuring that the benefits of trade liberalization and economic growth are distributed equitably.

Canada is playing an important role in fulfilling the labour and employment commitments mandated by the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action. As Chair of the XII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (IACML) since October 2001, Canada has implemented a results-oriented Plan of Action that focuses on: promoting the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; strengthening the capacity of labour ministries to implement labour laws and policies, assisting the smaller economies of the Hemisphere; and working towards a deeper understanding of, and agreement on, the labour dimensions of the Summit of the Americas process.

A milestone under Canada's leadership has been the unprecedented participation of employer and labour groups in the formulation and implementation of the IACML Plan of Action.

To fulfill its commitments, the IACML established two working groups: one to examine the labour dimensions of globalization and the other to find ways of building the capacity of labour ministries. Workshops have also been organized across the Americas to

address the impact of trade and economic integration on labour, non-traditional employment relationships, closing the digital divide, social security, and gender issues.

After having taken concrete measures towards improving working conditions in the Americas, Canada will hand over the chair of the IACML to Brazil in September 2003.

Within the context of the FTAA negotiations and beyond, Canada is committed to ensuring that the benefits of trade liberalization and economic growth are distributed equitably.



CIDA Photo: Pierre St-Jacques

The FTAA has the potential to significantly expand overall trade in the Americas. This would translate into higher GDP growth throughout the Hemisphere, and it would help all of us achieve our domestic economic and social policy objectives.



Trade, Investment and Financial Stability

The proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas is a vehicle for promoting growth and creating prosperity in the Americas. It would establish the world's largest free trade area. With a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of about CDN\$19.7 trillion, the FTAA would account for about 40 percent of the world's economic activity, a proportion greater than that of the European Union.

A hemispheric trade agreement would open new markets and provide a competitive stimulus for both goods and services industries, fuelling a search for innovation and improvement throughout the Hemisphere. It would also provide rules that create a stable and predictable environment, encouraging investment and financial stability throughout the Americas.

The results of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which brings together the Canadian, U.S. and Mexican economies to their mutual benefit, foreshadow the potential gains from Hemispheric free trade. The FTAA has the potential to significantly expand overall trade in the Americas. This would translate into higher GDP growth throughout the Hemisphere, and it would help all of us achieve our domestic economic and social policy objectives.

The FTAA was conceived in principle in December 1994 at the inaugural Summit of the Americas, held in Miami, Florida. In April 1998, at the Second Summit in Santiago, Chile, the Leaders of the 34 democratic countries in the Americas launched negotiations towards a hemisphere-wide free trade area. Canada became the first Chair of the FTAA process, seen as a key opportunity to demonstrate Canadian commitment to strengthening ties within the Hemisphere and further the trade liberalization agenda. By the conclusion of Canada's term as Chair, at the November 1999 Trade Ministerial in Toronto, concrete progress towards the next phase of the negotiations had been realized.

The FTAA and Canada's Trade Relationship With Latin America and the Caribbean

Without fanfare, in recent years Canada has developed a close and ever more significant trading relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, Canada has a free trade agreement with Chile, and on April 23, 2001, signed a similar agreement with Costa Rica. Canada is also exploring free trade agreements with the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean community (CARICOM) and the Andean Community countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). Meanwhile, Canada has begun formal free trade negotiations with the four Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Canada continues to play an active leadership role in the negotiations. It is currently the Chair for the Negotiating Group on Dispute Settlement, and Vice-Chair for the Negotiating Group on Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties. Canada also continues to advocate greater transparency in the FTAA negotiations. At the April 2001 Trade Ministerial in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Trade Ministers endorsed Canada's proposal to make public the consolidated draft negotiating text of the FTAA Agreement. The Ministers decided to release the second draft at the November 2002 Trade Ministerial in Quito, Ecuador, demonstrating the success of Canada's long-standing efforts to instill a new culture of transparency in trade negotiations. Canada has pledged its full support to trade-related technical assistance through the Hemispheric Cooperation Program announced during the Quito Ministerial.

Destination country/area	Population (millions)	Canadian exports, 2002 (CDN\$ millions) Country/region
South America		2,319
Central America (excl. Mexico)		1,312
Mexico		2,395
Caribbean		1,006
Total	500	7,032
India		637
Indonesia		487
Russia		243
Eastern Europe		770
France		1,963
Germany		2,907
Total	1,936	7,007

Canada's trade with Latin America and the Caribbean is often overshadowed by its ties with its larger trading partners. However, the table above shows exactly how valuable Canada's trade relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean has become. It indicates that Canadian exports to the far less populous region of the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America are in fact worth more than exports to India, Indonesia, Russia, France, Germany and Eastern Europe combined.¹

¹ All statistics and figures can be found at: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca>

Towards a Green Hemisphere

During its term as Chair of the Summit of the Americas, Canada has made important progress on environmental issues—on the world stage, in our Hemisphere and at home.

Canada took an important step forward in the battle against global climate change in December 2002 when it ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. With this ratification, Canada has become the only country in the Americas with a binding emissions reduction target for the Kyoto commitment period.

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On the regional level, Canada is an active player in cooperative steps to address environmental issues of fundamental concern, such as health and the environment, trade and the environment, air and water quality, climate variability and change, and the management of chemicals. Canada's support for environmental issues in the Americas focuses on strengthening the capacity of regional institutions and countries to support improved environmental policy, management and regulation, and adaptation to climate change in such sectors as energy, water and sanitation, mining, oil and gas, agriculture and pesticides, and disaster management. Canada spends over CDN\$9 million annually in these areas.

In March 2001 Canada hosted the Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of the Americas. This led to the effective integration of environmental priorities into the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action.

In support of the mandate established at Quebec City, Canada hosted the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) meeting in Ottawa in March 2002. The meeting agreed to establish a task force of officials from the health and environment sectors throughout the region to move the HEMA initiative forward. Since then, Canada has been working with regional counterparts and representatives from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme to support the work of the HEMA Task Force. The task force is scheduled to meet three times in 2003 to make proposals to Ministers on a follow-up process.

Canada's continued commitment to regional environmental cooperation is evident in its work under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the Canada–Chile Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, and the Canada–Costa Rica Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, and in its engagement in the World Bank's Clean Air Initiative. The three environmental cooperation agreements are each associated with a free trade agreement, and reflect Canada's commitment to promoting sound environmental management simultaneously with trade liberalization.

Agricultural Management and Rural Development

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the key ministerial forum for agriculture and rural development in the Hemisphere, and is helping implement the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action in these areas.

A member of IICA since 1972, Canada plays an active role in the Institute by participating in meetings of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Executive Committee and the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues. Canada has also contributed to the re-organization of the Institute and to the development of its medium-term plan, which identifies six strategic areas for cooperation over the 2002–06 period:

- trade and agri-business;
- agricultural health and food safety;
- technology and innovation;
- sustainable rural development;
- information and communication; and
- education and training.

Ongoing cooperation through IICA continues to give Canada invaluable experience within the inter-American system and with IICA's 34 member states. It also provides an opportunity for the

sharing of expertise between scientists, the development of stronger trade ties, and cooperative approaches to common problems.



CIDA Photo: Roger LeMoine

Realizing Human Potential

Canada is helping countries in Latin America and the Caribbean improve the quality of education through training and upgrading for teachers and school administrators.

Realizing human potential involves creating the conditions required so that all individuals can have more opportunities to develop their potential and contribute to the development of the societies in which they live and work. That means giving them the tools to develop and compete. The objective is to promote inclusion by empowering groups—youth, women, Indigenous peoples, the poor and disabled—who are often forced to the margins of society.

Canada is also supporting the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education, based in Quebec City, with its College of the Americas program linking post-secondary institutions across the Americas. In addition, Canada is providing CDN\$5 million to four Latin American universities; the funds support their joint efforts to develop entrepreneurship through local cooperatives that are meant to become self-sustaining.

An Education Agenda of the Americas

The Quebec City Plan of Action opened a new chapter in the history of education in the Americas. It set a new Hemispheric education agenda that will focus efforts to reduce poverty, promote economic growth, further develop democratic institutions and advance human potential.

In Uruguay in September 2001, at their second meeting, Ministers of Education adopted a Declaration Against Violence and also agreed to create an Inter-American Committee on Education. This will coordinate the development and implementation of Hemispheric actions of partnership enabling all countries to achieve the education goals identified by Leaders within the framework of the Summit of the Americas. Ministers will meet again in August 2003 in Mexico to review progress.

In the interim, Canada is helping countries in Latin America and the Caribbean improve the quality of education through training and upgrading for teachers and school administrators. Canada is providing CDN\$5 million over five years to help train elementary school teachers in rural areas of northern Peru in order to improve the quality of schooling for poorer, rural communities. In Guatemala, Canada has supported a reform project to improve the national education curriculum and upgrade textbooks at the elementary and secondary levels. A key aspect of this work is finding ways to reduce discrimination against Indigenous peoples.

The Quebec City Summit set up the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas to promote the implementation of innovative uses of information and communication technologies in the Hemisphere (see “Connectivity,” below). Based in Ottawa, the Institute is currently supporting a number of education-related projects in the Caribbean (including the Caribbean Distance Education Network in collaboration with the World Bank and the OAS), as well as Computers for Schools and Access to Internet projects in both Colombia and Costa Rica.

With these initiatives and others, Canada and its hemispheric partners are helping to empower the peoples of the Americas through education and are helping the Ministers of Education meet their commitment of “educating present and future generations in the development of their capacity to participate in a global environment.”



CIDA Photo: Roger LeMoine

Promoting Health Across the Hemisphere

Canada has one of the best health care systems in the world, providing high-quality health care services based on need, not the ability to pay. Canada is working with its Hemispheric neighbours to improve health services in their countries. In fact, dealing with health-related issues cooperatively is in everyone's interests in an era of unprecedented movement of people and goods across borders, when global environmental health issues are of concern to all.

As noted earlier, in March 2002 Canada hosted a meeting of Ministers of Health and Ministers of Environment from across the Hemisphere as a follow-up to the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action. The objective was to foster a new spirit of cooperation, with increased levels of technical support and targeted development assistance.



CIDA Photo: David Trattles

Canada contributes some CD\$25 million per year to Latin American and Caribbean health initiatives that improve basic health care and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

In the Americas, Canada works directly with other countries and also with the Pan American Health Organization to provide Canadian technical and scientific expertise that helps address a wide variety of issues, including HIV/AIDS, tobacco control, Indigenous health problems, improvements in laboratories and health surveillance systems. Among the projects that Canada has developed in coordination with PAHO are the following: a Canada–Costa Rica project on women's health policies; the Latin-American/Caribbean–Canada project on surveillance of anti-microbial resistances; and the Mexico–Canada project on healthy ageing. Canada supports PAHO in its efforts to prevent and control communicable diseases in South America and Haiti. Canada has also signed an agreement with the United States to work more cooperatively on health concerns relating to Indigenous populations.

Canada is involved in community health care projects together with the Canadian Red Cross Society in Honduras and Nicaragua. These strengthen the capacities of local Red Cross societies to assist local ministries of health in delivering primary health care services to people most in need. The Government of Canada also works with the Newfoundland Centre for Nursing Studies, using distance education technology to train new primary health care nurses in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Hemispheric Development

The Quebec City Plan of Action represented a broad consensus on the priority development issues facing the Americas. Canada is committed to being an active partner in addressing those concerns. It is working with partners from intergovernmental organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to fulfill commitments made in Quebec City.

Canada's development program is working with developing countries in the Americas to reduce poverty and improve equity. The program reflects the multi-faceted nature of the challenges facing the region. In some countries, the focus is on supporting human rights, democracy and the effective participation of citizens in the decisions that affect them. In other nations, the emphasis is on public sector reform, improving the delivery of basic social services, and increasing the productive and earning capacity of the poor. Activities stress the need to empower vulnerable groups—such as women, children and Indigenous peoples—so that they can participate more actively in the social, political, economic and environmentally sustainable development of their societies. Since the Summit, Canada's development cooperation program has committed CDN\$420 million in financial and technical support to some 120 development projects related to the Summit Plan of Action.

Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, Canada is facilitating the transfer of Canadian knowledge and approaches to partner organizations that are capable of adapting such know-how to meet pressing development challenges.

Canada is working closely with other donor countries to help Honduras implement its Poverty Reduction Strategy, a comprehensive plan developed by the Hondurans to promote their own development. Canada is providing resources to six funds being managed locally to advance sustainable development in agriculture, forestry, environment, health, and water sanitation.

In Bolivia, Canada is supporting the country's efforts to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of poor Bolivians. Sectoral priorities are health, water and sanitation, and government modernization; gender equality and sustainable development are cross-cutting themes.

Canada is also contributing to a social development fund in Haiti to help the most disadvantaged people access high-quality services for health and nutrition, basic education, and measures combatting HIV/AIDS. Canada is working in the Commonwealth Caribbean to improve the ability of key local and regional organizations to combat HIV/AIDS, and has committed CDN\$20 million to this effort.

An example of increasing regional cooperation is provided by the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development of the OAS. Canada was a leader in the establishment of the Agency in 2000 and remains active on its Management Board. The Agency has adopted the priorities of gender equality, environment, civil society participation and results-based programming. Three quarters of its budget supports projects in the fields of education, social development and employment creation in the Hemisphere.

Another regional initiative is the Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Program. This is building the capacity of key national and regional institutions in the Caribbean to better manage government spending, taxation and financial policies.



CIDA Photo: Greg Kinch

Since the Summit, Canada's development cooperation program has committed CDN\$420 million in financial and technical support to some 120 development projects related to the Summit Plan of Action.

Promoting Gender Equality Across the Hemisphere

At Quebec City, the Leaders endorsed the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality. They committed to advancing gender equality through various activities, including: strengthening national machineries responsible for the advancement of women; integrating a gender perspective into all OAS organs and agencies; and promoting women's human rights by strengthening and fostering women's full and equal participation in political life and decision making at all levels in their countries.

Canada actively promotes gender equality at the domestic and international level, not only as a human rights issue but as an essential component of democratic development.



CIDA Photo: Greg Kinch

Canada actively promotes gender equality at the domestic and international level, not only as a human rights issue but as an essential component of democratic development. True development will be achieved only if women are able to participate as equal partners, decision makers and beneficiaries of the development of their societies. These principles are explicitly recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Canadian efforts focus on three key goals: improving women's economic autonomy and well-being; eliminating systemic violence against women and children; and advancing women's overall human rights.

At home, the Government of Canada adopted the Agenda for Gender Equality in 2000. The Agenda aims to enhance voluntary sector capacity, engage Canadians in the policy process, undertake and promote gender-based analysis, address critical gaps that prevent the further advancement of gender equality, and meet Canada's international commitments with respect to gender equality. For instance, the Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) training program developed in 2001 has trained federal and provincial government employees and some NGOs in GBA. Further, since 1999 approximately CDN\$10 million has been invested annually to support civil society activities seeking to improve women's economic status, eliminate violence against women and children, and advance issues of social justice.

At the hemispheric level, Canada is also active in promoting women's human rights and economic autonomy. For example, for the period 2002-04 Canada is serving as Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and it supports the role of the CIM as the primary policy-making body on women's human rights and gender equality in the inter-American system. Canada has provided CDN\$500,000 for a gender mainstreaming training program with the OAS General Secretariat.

In October 2002, Canada acceded to the CEDAW Optional Protocol, which provides an additional mechanism for Canadians to advance their human rights.

Working Together: The Indigenous Peoples of the Americas

The Quebec City Summit Declaration and Plan of Action focused the attention of governments within the Americas on the importance of Indigenous issues. As Chair of the Summit process, Canada persuaded its partners to provide strong support for the Indigenous Summit, which took place in the lead-up to Quebec City. The event provided Indigenous peoples from across the Hemisphere with an opportunity to prepare a declaration; this was then circulated to Leaders at the Quebec City Summit.

The Government of Canada has engaged a number of governments in the region through bilateral visits to exchange best practices and lessons learned in areas such as land claims, economic development, Aboriginal justice, bilingual education and connectivity. The Government of Canada continues to work with other states and Indigenous peoples to prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Government of Canada also hosted the second annual Connecting Aboriginal Canadians Forum in March 2003. Fifty Indigenous representatives from Latin America were present at the event and had an opportunity to share best practices and lessons learned in the area of connectivity with Aboriginal and government representatives from Canada.

Canada has meanwhile promoted the expansion of trade and economic development, and the fostering of economic, social and cultural cooperation between Canadian and other Indigenous communities of the Americas. In particular, in January 2003 Canada launched the Indigenous Peoples Partnership Programme (IPPP); this will provide up to CDN\$10 million over a four-year pilot period to support development partnerships between Indigenous peoples in Canada and those in other countries, initially in the Americas region. The IPPP has the following goals: to increase the development capacity of Indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, and of the entities dealing with them; to increase the international development expertise of Canadian Aboriginal entities; and to foster sustainable partnerships between Aboriginal peoples in Canada and Indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fostering a Culturally Diverse Hemisphere

Since the Quebec City Summit, Canada has played a leading role in advancing cultural policies in the Americas.

As part of the implementation of the Quebec City Plan of Action, Canada has hosted two Meetings of Experts on Culture—one in Vancouver, British Columbia, in March 2002 and one in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in March 2003. These seminars brought together representatives of governments, multilateral institutions, civil society organizations and cultural industries from Canada and the rest of the Hemisphere to exchange views and discuss and share strategies that would contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity in the Americas.

In close partnership with Colombia, Canada played a leading role in preparations for the first Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers of Culture, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in July 2002.

The Summit of the Americas process helped advance the fight against performance-enhancing drug use by competitive athletes, facilitating the first meeting of Ministers of Sport in the Americas in Brazil in April 2003.



The Summit process has helped Canada contribute to the Hemispheric cultural diversity agenda and secured a leadership role for Canada in key policy areas.

Canada has promoted the expansion of trade and economic development, and the fostering of economic, social and cultural cooperation between Canadian and other Indigenous communities of the Americas.

Connectivity

Canadians know by experience that information and communications technology can bring us together as a nation even as it transforms the way we study, work, heal, communicate, build, entertain and govern ourselves.

Canada has quickly seized the opportunity to take a leadership position on-line with an array of private-sector and government initiatives winning worldwide attention. Now that digitized information is becoming available throughout the Americas, Canadian experience with new media and information technology provides an opportunity to connect Canada even more closely with its hemispheric neighbours.

Leaders at the Quebec City Summit issued a statement on “Connecting the Americas.” This recognized that the region is beginning a historic transformation, with a vastly enhanced capacity to access knowledge and improve information flows.

In demonstration of its commitment to promoting the transformation, Canada took the opportunity of the Quebec Summit to announce the creation of the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA). The ICA aims to build on the success of Canada’s domestic “Connecting Canadians” strategy and international development experience to achieve the Leaders’ objectives, working with

international institutions, the private and public sectors, academic institutions, and civil society.

ICA’s role within the Americas is to lead, facilitate, promote and foster the accelerated development and adoption of Hemispheric connectivity, with a focus on regional approaches. The Institute is filling a critical gap by assisting the coordination, collaboration and sharing of efforts across countries; it is promoting strategic partnerships and financing, and is providing leadership and support to jurisdictions, providers and stakeholders.

Canada plays a leading role in a parallel process within the OAS. It has been working within the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission to develop a simple model that national governments can use to develop a plan for connectivity appropriate to their circumstances. Canadian-led efforts have resulted in the creation of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and Plan of Action of Quito (ACAPAQ).

Connectivity and a Hemispheric Infrastructure

Developing digital information and communications technology is part of broader efforts to create a truly integrated hemispheric infrastructure. This would improve global competitiveness, while bringing myriad benefits in enhancing human potential.

For example, Canada has played the leading role in the establishment of the Western Hemisphere Transportation Data System (WHTDS). The WHTDS establishes better linkages among transportation information networks by improving transportation information exchange and dissemination among countries of the Hemisphere. This includes information linking transportation and health data that reflect the social and financial consequences of increased traffic.

A core element of any infrastructure, transportation is a complex issue that requires extensive coordination. Along with the WHTDS, Canada has led a number of initiatives under the Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative, a forum for cooperation and information exchange between the transport ministries of Summit of the Americas countries. Work towards the establishment of a Dangerous Goods Working Group has begun, and Canada chaired the Group of Experts on Aviation Safety and Security. Here too, connectivity is key to creating a more effective hemispheric infrastructure.



CIDA Photo: Greg Kinch

ACAPAQ follows the Canadian model, with efforts focused on encouraging the involvement of all sectors of society in developing a plan that addresses issues of developing infrastructure, increasing use through capacity building, and developing relevant content for users. To be successful, Canada believes the plan must: benefit from leadership at the highest level; be based on principles of equity, universality and affordability; and be geared to stimulate the production and dissemination of relevant content in critical areas, meeting the fundamental needs of the citizens of the Americas. ACAPAQ has been circulated to all the countries of the Americas. Representatives of multilateral development banks and other international, regional and sub-regional institutions are meeting regularly to advance its progress.

Through initiatives such as Canada's Institute for Connectivity in the Americas and ACAPAQ, Canada is working with national administrations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and the OAS to connect people, schools, communities and governments.

"Connecting Canadians" has given Canada a decade's worth of experience in the application of information and communications technology. Innovative policies, programs, products and practitioners are in great demand throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Canadians are working assiduously to meet the demand together with our partners throughout the Hemisphere.

A Future for the Children and Youth of the Americas

Fifty percent of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean is under 18 years of age, and 60 percent of these children live in poverty. One in five of those between 6 and 18 years old is working, often in hazardous conditions. Street kids face hunger, disease and violence. In some countries, children and adolescents are recruited to fight for warring factions or with armed gangs.

Protecting children and youth in the Americas from neglect, abuse, discrimination and exploitation is a top priority for Canada, and a major focus of the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action. Canada recognizes that investment in children and youth will allow them to reach their full potential for lifelong cognitive, social and emotional development and physical health. The Third Summit of the Americas was the first to include the category of Children and Youth within its Declaration and Plan of Action. This was an important acknowledgment that the rights of children remain a concern of all peoples of the Hemisphere. The inclusion of this category was initiated and strongly supported by Canada.

Canada has launched a range of cooperative initiatives to start tackling the enormous challenges that lie ahead. Canada spends about CDN\$4 million every year for child protection in the Americas, especially in the key areas of child labour, street children, and children affected by armed conflict.

For example, in Colombia, Canada is providing CDN\$3.5 million to two projects that focus on children affected by armed conflict. One project, with Save the Children Canada, will address the immediate educational and psycho-social requirements of children displaced by conflict. The other project, with Foster Parents Plan, aims to stop the recruitment of children into armed groups. In Argentina, the Canadian Child Care Federation is working with local partners to improve the quality of early childhood care and development. In Nicaragua, Canada works with Save the Children Canada to promote children as effective leaders in their communities. Canada is

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CIDA Photo: David Trattles

Conclusion

contributing CDN\$5 million to the country program of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Jamaica, and CDN\$3 million to UNICEF's program on Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents in Guatemala; this will support efforts by the national public health system and participating NGOs to strengthen the delivery and quality of services for adolescents. A three-year, CDN\$686,000 project through the Association des centres jeunesse du Québec seeks to improve child protection in Chile. The project is reinforcing the capacity of the Chilean National Child Service and its collaborating institutions to improve the quality of child welfare and rehabilitation services for young offenders.



CIDA Photo: David Barbour

At a regional level, Canada is supporting the Inter-American Children's Institute, a specialized OAS agency. A CDN\$300,000, three-year project is helping to develop child labour policies and legislative models for governments in order to provide greater legal protection to children and youth.

Canadians can be proud of the role played by Canada through its Chairmanship of the Summit of the Americas process, which began in November 1999. As Chair, Canada made a commitment to ensure that the Declaration and Plan of Action emerging from the Quebec City Summit of the Americas reflected the principles and the essence of our country: the strengthening of democracy; the creation of prosperity; and the realization of human potential. Canada also remains committed to ensuring that this Plan of Action continues to be implemented both in Canada and throughout the Hemisphere.

The work does not end with the passing of the torch to Argentina on June 9, 2003. On the contrary, Canada's leading role on issues such as engagement and transparency requires that we continue to be in the forefront. Canada will continue to propose new ways to proceed in building upon the growing cooperation among our countries and our peoples in the shaping of our shared Hemisphere.

For more information on Canada's engagement with the Hemisphere and the Summit of the Americas process, please consult the following Web sites:

AmericasCanada.org

Canada's leading on-line source for information about the social, cultural, political and economic issues and events that bind the 34 democratic countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Canada.gc.ca

The official Web site of the Government of Canada, including links to the departments and agencies involved in the Summit process.

OAS.org

The official Web site of the Organization of American States.

summit-americas.org/default.htm

The official Web site of the Summit of the Americas Information Network.