

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS CANADA**  
**Policy Position Paper**  
**Topic: FAILED AND FRAGILE STATES**

**Name of University: Bishop's University**  
**Name of Course: POL 140 International Relations**  
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*Issues Identified:* Countries encountering instability can count on the international community to provide assistance and support. As a wealthy nation, Canada must decide how and when to supply aid to countries which can benefit from our support.

- *Canada is most effective when working within a multilateral framework.*
- *Contributions should be made in areas identified as those where Canadian efforts have the most impact.*
- *Canada should focus on providing more aid to fewer countries*

*Response to eDiscussion Question: Failed & Fragile Cities*

As urban areas globally become more heavily populated, Canada should look inward when assisting in metropolitan areas that are experiencing difficulties. Our own experiences in city-building should be utilized to aid urban areas. Poverty reduction and crime programs operating in Canadian cities could be used as models for cities' rebuilding, as these are issues common to large urban areas. For example, the recent

contributions made by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to Sri Lankan tsunami relief – in conjunction with CIDA - are a step in the right direction.

***Policy Recommendations:*** Canada should revitalize current policies and institutions, to better emphasize our specialties when rendering aid and development assistance.

► ***Update CIDA's Private Sector Directorate:*** As it stands, the Private Sector Directorate only accepts proposals from companies that have "...had annual sales of more than \$700,000 for at least two consecutive years" (CIDA 2005). This means that CIDA is ignoring many of the smaller companies that contribute to rural economic growth, and create employment. Organizations such as the Canadian Entrepreneurs Association should be utilized by CIDA to assist with local business growth. As well, the PSC should require Canadian companies to hire a certain percentage of their on-site workforce from the country in question. This can help create a trained and educated workforce, which will assist in leading to economic recovery.

► ***DART Expansion:*** While the Canadian Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has distinguished itself in countries such as Sri Lanka, expansion of the team would be of great benefit, both to DART, and those whom the team is deployed to assist. DART is often deployed to countries that would fall into the category of failed or failing, providing medical aid where it is otherwise unavailable. However, the team is ideally only supposed to operate for forty days. Were the team and its role expanded, Canada's contribution could be enlarged. Immigration, social workers and community leaders from

the migrant community living in Canada should also be part of the team, to identify those most at risk in the situation. By making use of these resources, those deemed 'at risk' could be transported to Canada for more comprehensive medical care, and possible application for refugee status. By harmonizing its response with other government departments, DART could be a complete, Canadian solution.

► *Unique Long-Term Initiatives*

One rarely publicized aspect of the Canadian contribution to rebuilding Haiti is our environmental commitment. While not a pressing concern at the outset of state failure - basic human security being paramount - Canada can provide for a developing nation by setting up environmental programs, which contribute to sustainable development. Many see environmentalism as a 'rich' ideology, something most nations do not have the luxury of practicing. By working alongside NGO's and partners in the private sector, Canada, as a rich nation, can help make a unique contribution. In Haiti, Canada has pledged \$19 million to such initiatives as "watershed management program", and "regenerating fragile ecosystems". These programs represent long-term thinking, something all too often ignored when helping fragile states. Such initiatives also indicate that the Canadian government is committed to Haitian stability, to MINUSTAH, and to assisting fledgling nations not only in the short term, but throughout their development and rebuilding.

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