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Canada and the Americas | Priorities & Progress



Canada 

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“Canada’s government has made it clear that re-engagement in the Americas is a critical international priority for our country. . . Canada is committed to playing a bigger role in the Americas and to doing so for the long term.”

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
July 17, 2007

© Office of the Prime Minister Photo: Jason Ransom



Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Colombian Integral Rehabilitation Centre in Bogota, Colombia, during his visit to Latin America and the Caribbean in July 2007

In July 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s tour to South America and the Caribbean launched a new beginning for Canada’s engagement in the western hemisphere. During his visit, the Prime Minister described the government’s vision for Canada and the Americas:

A more democratic, prosperous, and secure region that creates stability and opportunity for its citizens.

Since then, Canada has been fully and actively engaged with a number of partners in the region to advance a wide range of common interests – from trade and investment to education, from development assistance to sharing of best practices and information on pandemics, and from policing to the monitoring of elections. In November 2008, the Prime Minister underlined Canada’s continuing commitment to the Americas through the appointment of a Minister of State of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility

for the Americas. With a sustained, collaborative and consistent effort, working with partners in the hemisphere over time, Canada can contribute to ensuring that citizens in the region see improvements now and in the future.

The Americas are and will remain a foreign policy priority for Canada. Canadians have much to gain by being involved in the region, and they also have much to contribute. As the region tackles the current global economic crisis, Canada’s economic leadership

and membership in the G8 and G20 are valued by its neighbours. Indeed, Canada's economic model, based on open markets, prudent and appropriate regulation, and responsive and equitable social policies, is attracting significant attention from other countries in

the region and beyond. Regional solidarity and collaboration during this difficult period will help the region weather the downturn, but ongoing efforts are also required for the long term. This is a message Prime Minister Harper brought to his meetings with

hemispheric leaders at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of priorities and progress to date in achieving Canada's vision for the Americas.

Why the Americas matter to Canadians

Canada is a country of the Americas. By geography, history and multi-faceted relationships between states, in terms of trade, immigration and cultural and social exchanges, the Americas is a region of strategic domestic and international interest for Canada.

An important segment of Canadians come from the region. As a country of refuge, Canada has welcomed new immigrants during periods of civil unrest in Latin America, from Chile in the 1970s to Central America in the

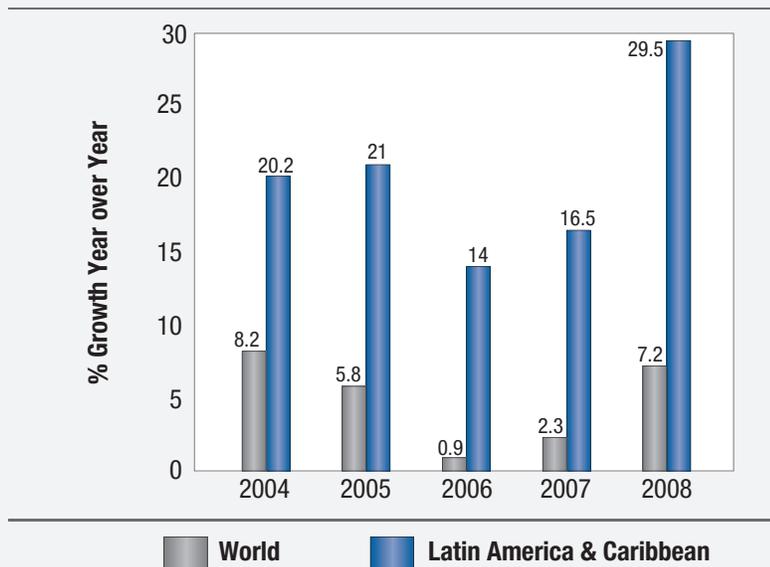
1980s. Today, over 11 percent of Canadian immigrants come from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Mexico. Indeed, there are over 70 Latin America and Caribbean diaspora organizations across Canada. The three largest diaspora communities are from Jamaica, El Salvador and Haiti.

But Canada's ties to the region are broader and deeper than these recent migratory flows. Through a long history of commerce, investment, development, military assistance, immigration and

the promotion of democratic values, Canada has established a reputation as a reliable partner and a principled participant whose voice and influence count.

Canada's interests and relations in the region align with three main objectives which form the basis of Canada's vision and engagement in the Americas: democratic governance, prosperity and security.

Annual growth in Canadian merchandise exports, 2004-2008*



*Excludes Mexico

Source: Statistics Canada (Preliminary data subject to revision)

Democratic governance is important to Canadian interests and relations in the region because:

- Despite the advance of representative democracy and overall economic growth in the region, poverty, inequality, exclusion and marginalization, including along ethnic and racial lines, continue to persist in the Americas.
- The proliferation of drug trafficking and the web of corruption and violence that accompanies it also threaten the democratic fabric of the Americas neighbourhood.
- The social and economic change required in the region can only be achieved through a sustained, coherent effort. Strong democratic institutions, free and open media, credible political parties, an independent judiciary and a vibrant civil society are necessary for the political health of the region.

On economic interests and relations, the Americas matter to Canadians because:

- In the past decade, the Americas have witnessed sustained growth with the adoption of progressive macroeconomic policies. Canada has benefited from these developments through increased trade and investment with the region.
- Canada's economic engagement in the region is also based on the premise that increasing trade with countries in the Americas can have a positive impact on democratic reforms and security issues.
- In 2008, our exports to Latin America and the Caribbean, excluding Mexico, totalled more than \$8.6 billion. This figure represents about a 30 percent increase in exports to the region from 2007, compared to a 7.2 percent increase in exports worldwide over the same time. During this period, Canada's imports from Latin America and the Caribbean amounted to \$13.7 billion, resulting in a total of more than \$22 billion in bilateral trade in 2008.
- In 2007, foreign direct investment (FDI) from Canada to the Americas, excluding Mexico and Bermuda, stood at \$94.9 billion, a number that is three times the size of Canadian investment in Asia (\$32.4 billion). Investment in the region is creating jobs at home and abroad while also increasing our trade.
- Canadian banking interests predominate in the Caribbean, extending the security of sound banking practice in times when other financial sectors are beleaguered.

On security interests and relations, the Americas matter to Canadians because:

- The people-to-people ties between Canada and the region are increasing. In 2007, over 4 million Canadians travelled to Latin America and the Caribbean, including Mexico. In recent years (2005-2007), the number of Canadians visiting the region has increased on average eight percent annually.
- People from other parts of the region are coming to Canada in increasing numbers. Canada has become the single largest destination for study-abroad programs for Brazilian youth. Seasonal migratory labourers flow to Canada from the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America and serve as an example of orderly exchange of labour, with clear mutual benefits.
- In addition to benefits, increasing people-to-people ties between nations also have consular, security and health implications. Organized crime, natural disasters and pandemics transcend borders and cannot be resolved without regional collaboration. The global economic downturn may further exacerbate crime rates, as economies slow down and remittances – money sent home by diaspora working in Canada – decrease, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean where they account for a large share of gross domestic product (GDP).

Simply put, Canada's commitment to democratic governance, economic prosperity and security is closely linked with those of our hemispheric neighbours. What affects the Americas has a direct impact on Canada. Canada is well placed, by our location, our contacts and by our reputation, to make a difference.

Engagement in the Americas – Canada’s Vision

Canada’s foreign policy approach to the region is based on three interconnected and mutually-reinforcing objectives:

Democratic governance: to strengthen democratic institutions, practices and principles that deliver freedom, human rights and the rule of law;

Prosperity: to build dynamic and growing economies, and promote responsible investment and open markets that will create new opportunities and jobs;

Security: to enhance regional stability and security by addressing the threats of drugs, organized crime, health pandemics and natural disasters.

This is a long-term vision. While Canada has views and experience, it does not have a monopoly on solutions for a complex and diverse hemisphere. Canada’s engagement in the region is unique, reflecting its own history, interests and ideals.

Canada is committed to advancing these objectives simultaneously, recognizing that neither sustainable prosperity and growth nor equitable development and strong democratic governance can flourish in an environment of insecurity. Clearly, democracy is at risk when personal security and the possibility to improve living standards are compromised.

The advancement of this vision requires a sustained, consistent and focused effort that is based on the following instruments:

Reinforcing bilateral relationships:

Canada is strengthening its relations with key bilateral partners to deliver on common objectives, pursue mutual interests, and advance shared values in the Americas.

Strengthening regional organizations:

Canada is working closely with regional multilateral institutions such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Summit of the Americas to search for joint solutions to hemispheric challenges.

Bolstering Canadian partnerships:

Canada’s engagement in the Americas is a whole-of-government priority, but it is also advanced through the work of other organizations, such as provinces and territories, Crown corporations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics and experts, and diaspora from the Americas.

Expanding Canada’s presence:

Canada is also increasing its diplomatic presence in the region through high-level visits by the Governor General, the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers, as well as by increasing the deployment of Canadian civil servants in the coming years.





A mechanical systems engineer on board HMCS *St. John's* delivers humanitarian aid to a local citizen in Port au Prince, Haiti in September 2008

Canada's engagement in the Americas is guided by its vision, and is advanced through these collaborative instruments. Throughout this report are examples of Canada's engagement in the Americas. They are intended to demonstrate how Canada is making progress on the government's vision for the Americas through the right mix of bilateral, multilateral and partnership instruments, to ensure effective, meaningful results. Rather than being exhaustive, they are illustrative. Consult the Annex for a more detailed listing of Canada's activities, or visit www.americas.gc.ca.



Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) Peter Kent, with OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza

Instruments and capacity

- Outside the United States and Mexico, Canada has 27 embassies, high commissions and offices in the Americas.
- The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) disbursed \$492.1 million in development assistance in the Americas in 2007-2008. Major recent commitments for assistance include a \$600 million investment over 10 years in the Caribbean, focused on governance and private sector development.
- The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Crown corporation, currently supports approximately 160 active projects with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- More than 80 Canadian universities and colleges have academic agreements with partner institutions in the region to promote exchanges among students.

Democratic governance

Objective: to strengthen democratic institutions, practices and principles that deliver freedom, human rights and the rule of law

The Americas have made important progress toward the consolidation of democracy. The Inter-American Democratic Charter symbolizes a regional commitment toward democracy. Emanating from the 2001 Quebec City Summit of the Americas and signed that same year in Peru, the charter mandates governments to promote and defend democracy.

Canada is delivering on this objective by focusing on multiple elements of democratic governance such as ensuring free and fair election results, supporting independent civil society and media outlets, as well as working with multilateral organizations in the region.

In Bolivia, for example, Canada is supporting the electoral system to ensure that there will be free and fair results, strengthening judicial institutions and promoting free and open media outlets. CIDA supported Bolivia's National Election Commission in organizing free and fair elections in 2005, which resulted in the highest voter turnout in 25 years. To continue improving accountability and transparency, CIDA also helped to develop an independent national ombudsperson's office in Bolivia by training and supporting 4,000 public servants by mid 2007. Given growing social tensions in Bolivia, Canada assisted in the development of an anti-discrimination campaign that was broadcast by more than 125 radio and television stations.

Rights & Democracy work in the Americas

Rights & Democracy is an independent institution with a mandate from Canada's Parliament to promote human rights and democratic development abroad. Through its programs in Haiti, Colombia and Bolivia, Rights & Democracy aims to strengthen democratic institutions and practices; to foster greater state-society dialogue around human rights; to promote the political participation of women and indigenous peoples in municipal government and within political parties; to reinforce state capacity to fulfill international human rights obligations; and to promote justice and reparations for victims of human rights violations.



A busy downtown commercial area, San Jose, Costa Rica



Youth enjoying their computer facilities at the *Museo de los Niños*, San Jose, Costa Rica

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada's (DFAIT) Glyn Berry Program has allocated over \$1 million of its democracy support funding to the Americas. Part of this funding has supported the development of a strong and vibrant civil society, free and open media outlets, and research networks focusing on democracy issues in the region. For example, in March 2008, Canada supported the OAS convening a special meeting of the Permanent Council with representatives from civil society to examine the contribution of civil society organizations to strengthening democratic culture in the hemisphere.

Canada has also supported the creation of the first broad-based civil society network of democracy champions in Latin America. The network provides over 90 civil society organizations with the space to exchange best practices

and develop strategies for the defence of civil society in the region, and increase awareness in the international community about the challenges facing civil society. Similarly, Canada supported the development of the Andean Democracy Research Network which produces timely, impartial and high-quality assessments of democracy in the Andean region. The network also provides a forum to analyze and debate ways to strengthen the implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

Another example is Canada's support to the Carter Center which has facilitated a series of workshops with journalists and media professionals to address the political polarization in the Venezuelan media. With Canada's support, the Carter Center has also engaged with governments to encourage the application of the Inter-American Democratic

Charter and to assist citizen groups and other domestic actors that work in concert with the Charter's principles to tackle the root causes of potential democratic crises.

Building transparent and accountable institutions in Haiti

Canada recognizes that institutions are the building blocks of democratic governance. To this end, Canada is working with Haiti to transform the police, the judiciary and the prison systems into professional and accountable institutions. In partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Correctional Services Canada (CSC), DFAIT has facilitated the deployment of police and correctional officers to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to provide practical advice that has led to security sector reforms.

At the multilateral level, Canada continues to strengthen and work with the OAS on its key priorities of democracy and security. As the second largest contributor to the OAS in both assessed and voluntary contributions, Canada is supporting a strong OAS role in the hemisphere. Canada has been a steadfast supporter of the OAS Good Offices Mission to Colombia and Ecuador, which is working to facilitate confidence-building between those two countries.

Canada also funds the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia, which has overseen the demobilization of over 30,000 paramilitaries; and the OAS Special Mission to Haiti, which is contributing to strengthening the electoral process. Canada has contributed throughout the years to OAS electoral monitoring missions in the region, and supported nine missions in 2007-08 with both financial and human resources.

Indigenous democratic governance project

Canada's Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program (IPPP) has established 74 projects to foster partnerships between Canadian aboriginal entities and indigenous communities in Latin America and the Caribbean that promote social connections and inclusion through training, dialogue and sharing of good practices. Between July 2007 and December 2008, 17 new development initiatives were funded, bringing together indigenous communities in 10 countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, and Peru – with Canadian aboriginal partners.

© IDRC Photo: Neil McKee



A Guatemalan teenage girl weaving a traditional indigenous handicraft

Prosperity

Objective: to build dynamic and growing economies, and promote responsible investment and open markets that will create new opportunities and jobs

Until the current global financial downturn, the Americas had experienced several years of sustained economic growth, with significant evolution in the macroeconomic policies of most countries demonstrated by greater openness to trade and investment. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the regional domestic growth rate was 4.6 percent in 2008.

In this region of dynamic economic opportunities, Canada is pursuing robust bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs), double taxation agreements, foreign investment protection agreements, stronger financial and banking institutions, and a development assistance agenda.

Canada's experiences with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and FTAs with Chile and Costa Rica have

resulted in wealth and job creation in all the countries involved. Based on these results, Canada signed FTAs with Peru and Colombia in 2008. These initiatives also include parallel agreements on labour and environment standards that commit Canada and its partners to working together to ensure high levels of protection for workers and the environment.

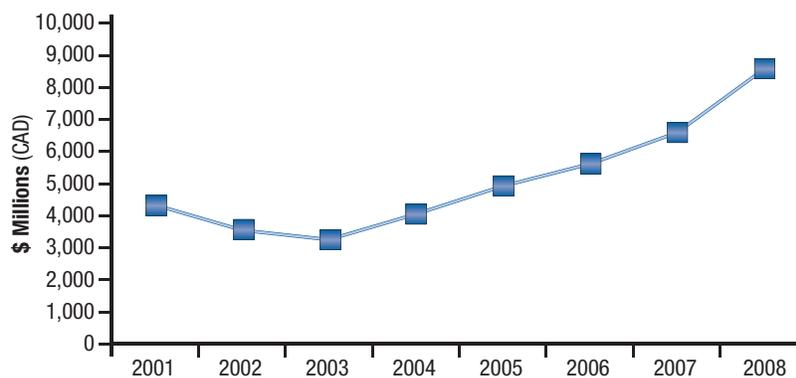
Canada is also currently advancing the negotiation of FTAs with Panama, Dominican Republic, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Central America Four (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador). To advance Canada's commitment to trade liberalization, CIDA has developed an \$18 million Trade-Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) Program to assist FTA partners in the Americas. This support will assist partners in maximizing the benefits of increased

trade and investment as means to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

A snapshot of trade and investment in the region

- The relationship between **Canada and Brazil** has advanced through the years. They are among the top 10 largest sources of FDI in each other's economies, and both are major exporting nations and energy producers. Canada has identified Brazil as a priority market in its Global Commerce Strategy, and is increasing its presence in Brazil by opening two additional trade offices in 2009, in Porto Alegre and Recife, for a total of five. Similarly, Brazil's Export and Investment Promotion Agency (APEX) has made Canada one of its top priority markets in 2009. The recent purchase of Inco by Vale of Brazil has propelled Brazil to the rank of seventh-largest source of FDI in Canada and the largest source from Central and South America.
- Merchandise trade between **Canada and Chile** has more than tripled since the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement came into force in 1997, growing to \$2.5 billion in 2008. According to Industry Canada, Canada is the largest source of foreign investment in Chile's mining sector.

Canada's merchandise exports to Latin America and the Caribbean, 2001-2008*



*Excludes Mexico
Source: Statistics Canada (Preliminary data subject to revision)

Economic prosperity, however, extends beyond trade and investment. For example, it includes the environmentally and financially responsible management of natural resources. To this end, CIDA is assisting the government of Peru in implementing a new natural gas and regulatory mining framework. Part of this work involves strengthening the capacity of Peru's Ministry of Energy and Mines to create and implement environmental guidelines by using information technology to increase transparency and manage decentralized public funds. In Cuba, Canadian development assistance has focused on preparing for participation in the global economy, such as developing the nascent taxation system required to sustain a higher degree of private enterprise and activity. CIDA funding has also helped introduce modern auditing techniques and practices throughout the country in order to improve the management of state resources.

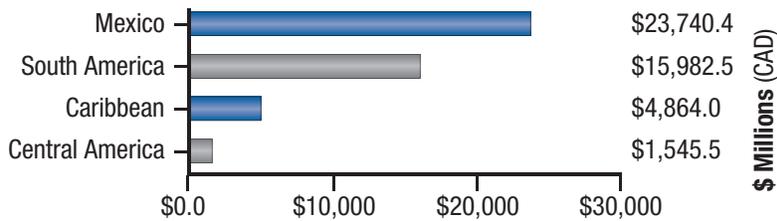
Strong Canadian partnerships have increased and diversified economic ties between Canada and the hemisphere. In 2008, Export Development Canada (EDC), which supports trading efforts by Canadian businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean, supported over 1,300 Canadian companies that were ready to export. Business volume was close to \$10 billion, representing an increase of more than 40 percent over 2007.

Another example of Canadian partnership is the work undertaken by the Canadian Commercial Corporation's (CCC) efforts in emerging and developing countries.

Over the past five years, CCC has provided approximately \$900 million in opportunities for Canadian exporters, almost all in Latin American and Caribbean markets. The bulk of these opportunities have been in infrastructure sectors such as transportation, water and energy.

Canada also recognizes that information and communication technologies are essential components of a prosperous region. For this reason, the IDRC is working with the IDB to analyze practices and regulatory frameworks in Latin America and use information and communication technologies in public procurement.

Canada's Bilateral Merchandise Trade with Latin America and the Caribbean (by sub-region), 2008



Source: Statistics Canada (Preliminary data subject to revision)



New International Airport in Quito, Ecuador, a \$413 million project through the Canadian Commercial Corporation

© CCC Photo: Aecon

Security

Objective: to enhance regional stability and security by addressing the threats of drugs, organized crime, health pandemics and natural disasters

Security threats in the region range from crime, violence and drugs to health epidemics and natural disasters. These challenges transcend territorial boundaries, affecting Canadians and other citizens in the Americas. The economic downturn - whose impacts include reduced remittances and employment opportunities - also risks deepening security challenges in the months and years ahead.

Canada's anti-crime efforts in the region are largely conducted through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the OAS Inter-American Drug Control

Commission (CICAD). Canada's annual contributions provide support for efforts in the region to address drug control, corruption and human trafficking issues, provide training and technical assistance aimed at improving international legal cooperation, and support mentoring programs and criminal justice reform, among other efforts.

Canada is closely engaged with counterpart customs administrations in the hemisphere to secure its borders. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has a network of 16 border officers posted in the

Americas, whose mandate includes interdiction, cargo examination, intelligence liaison and anti-fraud activities.

Canada also plays a role in enhancing transportation security through aviation and marine networks. In particular, Canada co-chairs (with Colombia) a regional consultative group and funds capacity-building activities through the Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance, a committee of the Summit of the Americas process.

© DND Photo: M/Cpl Robin Muiridge, Formation Imaging Services



Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Iroquois*, joined by HMC Ships *Calgary* and *Protecteur*, in April 2008 leaving for a six-month maritime security mission that began with surveillance operations in the Caribbean

Canada is also investing in preventive and responsive health-related initiatives in the region. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is supporting the Caribbean Community in creating a pan-Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), which will integrate existing regional health institutions into a single, self-administered, integrated health agency. By improving the governance structure of these institutions, Canada is investing in their capacity to address public health issues and respond to pandemics. Another initiative is the IDRC's and CIDA's \$6.2 million support to combat dengue fever in the region by generating a set of good practices to assist affected countries in fighting the mosquito-borne disease.



© CIDA Photo: Joshua Kraemer

Through CIDA funding, Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) volunteers help remote families gain access to health services, Huallanca, Peru

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and floods can hinder and even reverse a country's development. Canada has

provided assistance by contributing more than \$10 million to assist Haiti in the wake of the three major hurricanes in 2008 – Gustav, Hanna and Ike. The ship HMCS *St. John's*

delivered humanitarian aid in the aftermath of these three hurricanes. Moreover, CIDA has contributed \$20 million to build a new Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility within the World Bank and \$20 million to the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program.

Canada has also worked to improve defence and security cooperation in the hemisphere. Five Canadian Defence attachés are posted in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their primary objectives are to manage Canada's bilateral defence relations with the 22 countries where they are accredited, provide information collection, initial analysis and reporting capabilities, assist with international operations and bilateral defence material cooperation, and provide advice on military matters to Canadian heads of missions.

© CIDA Photo: Joshua Kraemer



CIDA funding helps to rebuild homes after earthquakes and other natural disasters, Chincha, Peru

The situation in Haiti highlights how security challenges are multi-faceted and inter-related. Canada's initiatives in improving security in Haiti demonstrates the importance that Canada attaches to contributing to its long-term stability and development. Since the departure of President Aristide in February 2004, Canada has helped re-establish stability in Haiti and

assisted in longer-term development efforts. Over five years (2006-2011), Canada has committed \$555 million to Haiti, and has become its second largest bilateral donor. In fact, Haiti is the largest beneficiary of Canadian development assistance in the Americas and the second largest in the world (after Afghanistan). Assistance is coordinated across government

and designed to support three core objectives in Haiti: improved access to basic services, restoration of rule of law and reinforcement of democratic institutions. In addition, the Department of National Defence (DND) is supporting MINUSTAH through the deployment of four Canadian Forces personnel in key positions in the mission's headquarters.

© Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (OSSG) Photo: Sgt. Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Governor General Michaëlle Jean during her visit to Haiti in January 2009

The Global Peace and Security Fund (GPSF)

- Through the GPSF, the Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START) of DFAIT, Canada has strengthened the operational and institutional capacity of Haiti's security forces to help improve security in communities so that families can live and work without fear for their personal safety.
- Since 2005, through START, Canada has also contributed a total of \$15 million to Colombia's conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Of this, \$2 million have gone towards the OAS Mission to support the Peace Process in Colombia. START funding supports government and civil society efforts to investigate and prosecute conflict-related crimes, to strengthen transitional justice programs, and to protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities. These funds also bolster the OAS's ongoing efforts to support demobilization of paramilitary forces in Colombia.

Port-of-Spain 2009: Canada at the Summit of the Americas

The Summit of the Americas is a valuable hemispheric forum that allows Leaders to work together on issues of prosperity, security, and democratic governance. The Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, was an important opportunity to address key challenges facing our region, including restoring growth and prosperity, promoting energy security and sustainable development, enhancing public security, and consolidating democracy.

Canada worked very closely with host Trinidad and Tobago and other partners in the region, providing logistical and substantive assistance to ensure the success of the Fifth Summit. The positive outcome is a promising development for the renewal of hemispheric relations. It also demonstrates the effectiveness of the multilateral approach that Canada is taking in advancing its priorities in the Americas: strengthening regional organizations such as the OAS and the Summits of the Americas process to develop joint solutions to hemispheric challenges.

On the occasion of the Summit of Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister Harper made important announcements that further demonstrate Canada's ongoing commitment to the Americas.

Emerging Leaders in the Americas Scholarship Program

Building on the Prime Minister's 2007 scholarship announcement in Barbados, the new Emerging Leaders in the Americas Scholarship Program will promote the development of future leaders in the Americas while strengthening institutional linkages between Canada and the Americas for sustained academic and research collaboration. This \$18 million program will award up to 1600 scholarships for Latin American and Caribbean students to pursue studies or do research in Canada, in areas of study that serve to address the priority needs in these regions.

Support to the Inter-American Development Bank

In response to the urgent capital needs identified by the IDB as essential to an effective response to the effects of the economic crisis in the Americas, Canada will temporarily make available up to US\$4 billion to increase by almost 45 per cent the IDB's lending capacity. This timely increase in support to the IDB will provide countries in the region with greater access to credit to promote economic growth, an essential element of economic recovery.

Bilateral Visit to Jamaica

Following the Summit of the Americas, Prime Minister Harper travelled to Jamaica, an important and longstanding partner for Canada. The key issues addressed during the visit included reinforcing security-related cooperation, moving forward on discussions of a Canada-CARICOM trade agreement, and the impact of the world economic crisis. Prime Minister Harper met with Jamaican Prime Minister Golding, and addressed a special joint sitting of the Jamaican Parliament. The Prime Minister also announced a four-year program to support Jamaica's **Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST)** justice reform project. The visit strengthened bilateral ties and reaffirmed Canada's commitment to forge a mature, mutually beneficial partnership with the broader Caribbean region.



Canada and CARICOM leaders meet during the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, April 2009

Canada-Americas Trade-Related Technical Assistance Program

Canada will provide \$18 million over five years to help countries that have signed, or are about to sign, free trade agreements with Canada. The Canada-Americas Trade-Related Technical Assistance Program (TRTA) will provide advice and training to partner governments and institutions. It is aimed at helping trade partners and potential trade partners in the Americas maximize the opportunities and benefits of increased trade and investment. The key results of this program will be increased two-way trade with Canada, improved market access and better regulatory reform, all of which will lead to

faster customs clearances and improved health, safety and labour standards for eligible countries wishing to trade with Canada.

Support to the OAS' Hemispheric Electoral Assistance Initiative

Canada will contribute \$5 million to the OAS' Hemispheric Electoral Assistance Initiative, a program that seeks to help countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve the transparency and effectiveness of their elections, including organization, administration and spending. Support to the OAS will increase its ability to rapidly deploy election observers, leading to increased voter confidence in the democratic processes and institutions of their country.

This initiative will allow for increased flexibility in electoral mission management as well as leverage multi-donor funding. For the period 2008-2010 it is expected that there will be over 30 elections in the region, and the OAS will likely be invited to observe a number of them.

Canada and the Americas: partners in the world

Geography has bound Canada with its partners in the Americas. Common interests, democratic values and respect for cultural and ethnic diversity provide the foundation for a future in which democratic governance, prosperity and security for all can become reality.

Progress towards these goals is being made, but it is not uniform across the region. Lessons will be learned, new developments will arise, and strategies will need to be adjusted along the way to ensure meaningful results.

The Government of Canada remains committed to working with partners in the region and at home, to do its part to build the best possible future for the Americas, for Canadians and for all citizens of the hemisphere.

“Canada is committed to playing a bigger role in the Americas – a role that reflects best practices as well as our identity, our tradition of order and community values – and the simple reality that we’re all in this together as members of the western hemisphere.”

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
July 19, 2007



The signing of the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia, 2008

Annex: Fulfilling Canada's Vision in the Americas

To complement the specific examples of collaboration in the Americas provided in the main body of the report, the following pages contain a list of some of the many projects and activities in which Canada is engaged as part of the fulfilment of Canada's vision in the Americas.

They are divided into three categories:

- 1) Building capacity and institutions;
- 2) Reinforcing bilateral relations and multilateral organizations; and
- 3) Collaborating with counterparts in the Americas.

1) Building capacity and institutions

Justice and legal systems

- Justice Canada, with funding from CIDA, is working with Jamaica's Ministry of Justice on the multi-year Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST) program, which aims to **modernize the Jamaican justice system**. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms have now been incorporated into Jamaica's legal systems, and police reports demonstrate fewer violent incidents in communities participating in the pilot project.
- Children's rights policies and programs have been strengthened at the local, provincial and national government levels and in civil society organizations with more than 12,000 civil servants and 3,500 community leaders provided with **training on the new Colombian Law on Children and Youth** as part of projects financed by CIDA.
- Canada, through CIDA and the Labour Program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), is funding an \$8.5 million project, the International Program for Professional Labour Administration, to support **labour law reform and enforcement** in the Americas.
- Another example is the work undertaken by CIDA in Peru to help **establish the office of the people's defender** and strengthen the ability of the state to promote and protect human rights. In 2006, the office of the people's defender registered more than 85,000 cases, of which 90 percent were resolved.

Health and social well-being

- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is working with the Inter-American Children's Institute of the OAS to fulfill and promote international health-related commitments in the Americas by sharing best practices and **building capacity to address health challenges** for children and adolescents.
- In 2008, CIDA announced a contribution of \$18 million in funding for **projects supporting health, food in schools and water sanitation** for marginalized youth in Honduras.
- Recognizing that local agents are best placed to find home-grown solutions, the IDRC is launching a \$15 million competition over the next five years to **support think tanks in Latin America**. Long-term funding will be provided to independent institutions to research social and economic policies that can help promote growth and reduce poverty in the region.
- Canada is also helping Haiti with preventive health programming and is the top contributor to its vaccination program. Major **vaccination projects** have immunized more than 850,000 children against measles, 1,150,000 against polio and 385,000 against diphtheria and tuberculosis. These efforts have contributed to a **decline in the prevalence of these serious diseases**.

Military and police infrastructure

- In 2008, DFAIT through the Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Fund, allocated \$4.8 million of bilateral support to the Caribbean and Central America. This contribution has resulted in **training of local police, equipment as well as technical and legal expertise**.
- The share of DND's **Military Training Assistance Program** allocated to the Americas has risen from 18 percent of its total budget in 2005-2008 to 25 percent (approximately \$4 million) for the period 2008-2011. Twenty Latin American and Caribbean countries benefit from this Canadian program, with Bolivia, Guatemala and Honduras having been admitted to the program in 2008.
- Through contributions to the Regional Peace Operations Training Centre in Guatemala, Canada supports **the training of Central American troops** who will participate in UN peacekeeping missions, including MINUSTAH.

- As part of their pre-Afghanistan deployment, some 200 Canadian Forces engineers have supported **infrastructure and capacity-building projects** in Jamaica and Belize. They have constructed classrooms, offices, accommodations, a dining hall and a library for the Caribbean Junior Command and Staff College and the Jamaica Military Aviation School. They also participated in infrastructure and civil-military relations projects in a Belizean village destroyed by a tropical storm.

Security

- Canada has contributed \$2.5 million to UNODC for 2008-2009, of which approximately one-quarter is devoted to programs with a Latin America and Caribbean focus. Canada's contributions to the UNODC and the Terrorism Prevention Branch have provided training and technical assistance to nearly 20 beneficiary states in the Americas and the Caribbean to **strengthen legal regimes**.
- DFAIT's Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program has contributed \$600,000 to a two-year collaborative initiative by PAHO, the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Infection Control Network of British Columbia, to support occupational health and safety in the health care sector and the Bioterrorism Preparedness Plan in Trinidad and Tobago. This training will **strengthen the capacity of health care systems and health care workers to respond quickly, safely and effectively to potential bioterrorism threats**.
- Canada is providing \$1 million to the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) and \$1.5 million to the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in 2008-09. The largest donor to the CICTE, Canada has provided roughly \$6 million for **counter-terrorism capacity** building in transport, maritime and aviation security, document integrity, cyber-security and critical infrastructure protection since its inception in 2005.
- Through CIDA, Canada has contributed \$355 million to Colombia since 1972. For fiscal year 2007-2008, CIDA provided \$14 million in aid and is focusing its bilateral development assistance on **children's rights and protection and attention to internally displaced persons (IDPs)**. This included \$3.0 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address the protection of IDPs, and \$1.1 million in humanitarian assistance through trusted multilateral partners such as the Red Cross and the World Food Programme (WFP).

2) Reinforcing bilateral relations and multilateral organizations

Government-to-government agreements

- The **Canada-Chile Partnership Framework (CCPF)** was signed between Prime Minister Harper and President Bachelet in Chile, July 17, 2007, to advance Canada-Chile collaboration and to ensure annual bilateral discussions.
- Five Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were enacted under the CCPF during President Bachelet's visit to Canada in June 2008 to advance collaboration on **science and technology, scholarships, youth mobility, bilateral investment promotion and sustainable mining**.

Air agreements

- Canada has air agreements with **23 countries** in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Canada concluded "**Open Skies**" agreements with Barbados (2007), the Dominican Republic (2008), and Costa Rica (2009). It also liberalized its bilateral air transport agreement with Mexico in 2007 and concluded a first agreement with Panama in 2008.

Research and development

- Canada is working with Chile on **joint research and development activities**, through agreements such as:
 - MOUs on geospatial knowledge and sustainable aquaculture development signed in July 2007 and March 2008 respectively; and
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada MOU on sustainable aquaculture development signed in 2008.
- As leading innovation partners, Canada and Brazil signed **the Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Agreement** in November 2008 during the Minister of International Trade's visit to Brazil.

- Canada's work in Haiti goes beyond government and involves other Canadian partners. For example, the IDRC is contributing \$2 million to **support the efforts of Latin American countries to foster peace and re-establish functioning institutions in Haiti**. Participating research centres in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay are helping promote, inform and coordinate policies so that Haiti's regional neighbours can contribute to the country's reconstruction.

Academic relations

- Over **600 scholarships** are available annually to post-secondary students from the Americas under the following programs: the **Canada-Chile Leadership Scholarships**; the **Canada-Chile Equal Opportunities Scholarship**; the **Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarships**; and the **Emerging Leaders in the Americas Scholarships**.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, **one regional network for Canadian Studies, 53 Canadian Studies Centres** and **8 Canadian Studies Associations** allow university students and professors in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela to learn about Canada through various activities, such as conferences, roundtables and Canadian experts' visits on specific themes.

Labour and employment agreements

- In November 2008, Canada and Brazil signed a Labour Cooperation MOU to **promote better working conditions, policies and employment programs**.
- In 2001, **Canada and Brazil** signed an MOU for cooperation in labour and employment, which was then renewed in 2004 and in 2007. This MOU covers industrial relations, labour administration, occupational health and safety, worker compensation systems, equity in the workplace, labour market and workplace information, and creation of decent work in small and medium enterprises.
- Canada signed a Labour Cooperation MOU in November 2007 with Argentina to promote better working conditions, policies and employment programs. This MOU facilitates and **encourages cooperation, exchange of information and best practices** between Argentine and Canadian officials, as well as union and business representatives.

Health

- PHAC is providing **\$18 million over four years to support PAHO's program on human resources** for health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, pandemic influenza and institutional development.

3) Collaborating with counterparts in the Americas

High-level meetings in Canada

- Canada hosted the **Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA)** in Banff from September 2-4, 2008 under the leadership of DND. Defence ministers from across the Americas gathered to discuss mutual concerns and regional challenges, such as natural disasters, illicit trafficking, transnational organized crime, civil-military relations and peacekeeping. They also made a continued commitment to MINUSTAH. The CDMA also made progress towards institutional linkages with the OAS. Since the meeting, Canada has chaired a working group to explore ways for the CDMA to cooperate with the OAS to improve the institutional capacity of the conference for follow-up between meetings. Canada is also working closely with Bolivia, the host of the next CDMA in 2010, to ensure an effective handover of hosting responsibilities.
- Canada hosted the 28th Annual Meeting of the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Board of Governors** in Halifax in May 2008, with Caribbean heads of governments, ministers of finance and development, governors of central banks, as well as representatives from international organizations and Canadian financial institutions, participating in the meeting.
- In September 2008, the Department of Canadian Heritage organized **Ignite the Americas: Youth Arts Policy Forum** in Toronto, which brought together young leaders and artists, cultural policy makers and industry leaders from around the hemisphere. This event focused on the important role that the arts and cultural expression play as an engine for economic growth, social inclusion and positive youth engagement both in Canada and throughout the Americas in addressing issues related to poverty, security and the stability of democratic institutions.

- In February 2008, DFAIT hosted a **Democracy Dialogue** entitled “Canadian Approaches to Democracy Support in the Americas”. It brought together 143 members of the Canadian, regional and international community to discuss challenges and opportunities for democratic development in the Americas.
- In March 2008, DFAIT hosted a conference organized by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law and the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) on Canada’s role in the Americas, which led to the **publication of a special issue** on the same topic in the *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*. A follow-up **Experts Dialogue** meeting was held in February 2009 to discuss ongoing challenges and the role for Canada in the region.
- Canada hosted the 83rd Regular Meeting of the **Directing Council of the Inter-American Children’s Institute** on October 15-16, 2008.
- Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) recently completed a study looking at **Western Canada’s potential business opportunities with Latin America**. In March 2009, WD hosted DFAIT Trade Commissioners from Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and DFAIT-Headquarters) to enhance their knowledge of western Canada’s technology capabilities.
- As a follow-up to a business networking event organized by **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency** (ACOA) and DFAIT on the margins of the CDB annual meeting held in Halifax in May 2008, ACOA led a delegation of business leaders and educational institutions from Nova Scotia on a trade mission to Barbados and Jamaica in June 2008, in collaboration with EduNova and Nova Scotia Business Inc. A follow-up trade mission for Nova Scotia companies took place in Saint Lucia and Jamaica in March 2009.
- In July 2008, HRSDC led the Canadian delegation to the **First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Social Development in the Americas**, which took place in Chile. Canada actively participated in meetings on issues of poverty and inequality and discussed Canadian experiences by sharing a document entitled “The Institutionalization of Social Policy in Canada”.
- Canada participated in the **Meeting of Ministers of the Americas Responsible for Public Security**, which met for the first time under the auspices of the OAS on October 7-8, 2008 in Mexico City. Ministers identified cooperative law enforcement training as a priority for follow-up under the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas. Ministers requested that the OAS Secretariat conduct a feasibility study to identify effective ways to strengthen the training and education of personnel in the region with responsibilities related to public security.
- Canada worked with the government of Costa Rica to hold a **workshop on international refugee protection** in Costa Rica in August 2008. Organized through the Regional Conference on Migration with the support of the UNHCR, the three-day workshop focused on legislation and programs for migration patterns. Representatives of governments and civil society from 12 countries as well as several international organizations attended.
- Canada was invited as an observer to the emerging **Pacific Arc** meetings hosted by Latin America countries with Pacific coasts, and is also following the development of the **Partnership for Prosperity in the Americas (PPA)** as an emerging vehicle for dialogue.

High-level meetings in the region

- Canada has been a strong player in of the **Summit of the Americas** process since its creation in 1994. Canada has worked very closely with Trinidad and Tobago and other partners in the region to ensure a successful Fifth Summit of the Americas that will allow for effective discussion and measurable results for citizens of the region.