

DEC 1 2005

Return to Departmental Library  
Retourner à la bibliothèque du Ministère

## DEVELOPING CULTURE POLICY: CANADIAN VALUES

### The Context

On May 12, 2000, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, in partnership with Hugh Stephens (ADM for Communications, Culture and Policy, DFAIT) and Minister Axworthy's office, organised the first roundtable in a series of discussions with Ann Medina and Colin Jackson, aimed at developing further foreign affairs culture policy. Heritage Canada was also present. During this meeting, Ann Medina and others suggested that "there is a need to conceptualise culture more broadly as permeating other aspects of Canadian public (foreign) policy and as encompassing a range of collective values and norms (political, social, economic, etc.). Based on this broad understanding of culture, Hugh Stephens proposed that, drawing on its extensive work with Canadians, the Centre prepares a paper on Canadian values.

The following is a short synopsis of those values/principles, practical experience/expertise and niches frequently identified by Canadians as worth promoting, protecting and reflecting internationally. Much of the value added of Canadian foreign policy stems from "Canada's strengths by virtue of its domestic nature." Meanwhile, Canada's leverage in the world hinges, among other things, on the perception of Canada's historical and present role in the international system.

This synopsis drew primarily on National Forum Reports: Canada and the UN Security Council (1999), Canada's Circumpolar Relations (1998), Asia-Pacific (1997), and most extensively, Peacebuilding, International Communications and Child Protection (1996). The National Fora reflect the views of a large number of Canadians from different sectors and backgrounds. The Centre's work on the Americas and other country and issue specific reports (Cyprus, Sudan, Water-related issues) were also consulted.

### Canadian Values and Principles

Some of the frequently identified Canadian values and principles for foreign policy development in general include:

1. **Support for diversity:** Canada supports and nurtures diversity within its own borders. Multiculturalism could be a powerful tool for Canadian foreign policy. For instance, Canada's "experience" with diversity could aid countries struggling in the aftermath of intrastate conflict based on ethnic, religious and other differences. Moreover, Canada's

16993789