

# 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.