

- President Préval visited Canada, March 22-24, 1996, and met with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy and Minister Pettigrew.
- Canada's efforts in Haiti have focussed on peacekeeping and long-term reconstruction. The Government also provided support for the Haitian legislative elections in June 1995 and for the presidential elections in December 1995.
- Canada and Haiti are members of la Francophonie. Canada is working through the institutions of la Francophonie to assist the newly elected Haitian Parliament and to provide assistance to Haiti in the areas of communications and education.

United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Haiti

- Canada has played a significant role in the UN Peacekeeping force since it took over from the Multinational Intervention Force on March 31, 1995. Approximately 500 Canadian Forces personnel, as well as 100 civilian police officers, participated under the original mandate when the force was called the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). An officer of the RCMP was the first head of the UN Civilian Police and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) partly funded the training of the Haitian National Police.
- The original mandate of UNMIH was to sustain a secure and stable environment, to protect international personnel and key installations, and to contribute to the development of a professional civilian police force. On June 28, the United Nations Security Council replaced UNMIH with the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), a smaller operation whose mandate ends on November 30.
- While the peacekeeping operation has been largely successful to date, its extension is intended to reinforce the stability that has been achieved in Haiti and to promote conditions necessary for social and economic development to strengthen Haitian democracy.

Terms of the renewed mandate:

- The main objective of the new and smaller mission is to provide monitoring, training and assistance in the field to the Haitian National Police so that it can become a more effective force. The Mission will also assist the Haitian government in maintaining a stable and secure environment in Haiti, and provide technical assistance in strengthening democratic institutions.
- A Canadian, General Pierre Daigle, is the military commander of UNSMIH, which comprises 1300 military personnel, including approximately 750 Canadians. In addition, a total of 300 civilian police officers have been assigned under CIVPOL. The 100 Canadian officers participating in this force were drawn from the RCMP and from a number of provincial and municipal police forces.