



■ The Minister

From time to time the Minister calls upon the Centre to undertake projects in order to solicit public or expert views and to generate new or reconsidered policy options. Projects which respond directly to the Minister's requests usually take the form of roundtables which bring together department officials (including desk officers responsible for the subject), academics, NGO experts, youth/young scholars, Parliamentarians and others.

These projects include roundtables on:

- Child Labour
- Central Africa
- Bosnia
- NATO
- MOX fuel
- China
- Human Rights
- Nigeria
- Central Asia
- Burma

(see project charts for details)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, and/or Secretary of State, Asia-Pacific, Raymond Chan, and Secretary of State, Africa-Latin America, Christine Stewart attended nearly all of these roundtables. A wide range and number of department officials, including the Deputy Minister and branch heads also took part.

The Minister also initiated research work on codes of conduct/human rights abroad, military spending, the Commonwealth, Raoul Wallenberg, and strengthening civil society.

■ The Department

The Centre's mandate includes working with the Department, and providing assistance on issues that would benefit from public views or expert studies.

Projects undertaken at the request of the Department include:

- Canada-US relations (Great Lakes environment, West Coast fish, forestry issues)
- Three policy options papers on the European Union
- Support for Mines Action Canada and the Ottawa Landmines Conference
- Research on the Role of the Ambassador
- Global Knowledge Conference preparation
- FOCAL Atlantic and the Caribbean
- Support for the OECD Conference on Military Spending

(see project charts for details)

"public generated views and policy options will inform the Department's policy making and public efforts will add value to the Department's work. In this way policy advice from the Department to the Minister should include the results of public consultations... The creation of the Centre reflects an important commitment to a greater public role in foreign policy making."

Gordon Smith
Deputy Minister

