



## What Canadians Said

### About the Dialogue

*It is a great opportunity to have a say as a Canadian. This is one of the many benefits of living in a free democratic society. In responding, I have felt like I can express my views and feel like someone is listening.*

– Dialogue participant

A *Dialogue on Foreign Policy* was launched on January 22, 2003 with the publication of a Dialogue Paper, which reviewed key developments since the Government's last foreign policy statement in 1995, outlined the three "pillars" of security, prosperity and values, and culture, and posed 12 questions for discussion. Also launched was an Internet site ([www.foreign-policy-dialogue.ca](http://www.foreign-policy-dialogue.ca)) where visitors could download the Dialogue Paper, submit on-line responses, access information resources, and participate in an electronic discussion forum.

Public consultations were conducted in a wide range of forums:

- Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham participated in 15 town hall meetings across Canada attended by more than 3,000 people.
- More than 12,000 copies of the Dialogue Paper booklet were distributed, and on-line access to the paper was provided throughout the process, with more than 60,000 visits to the Web site and 28,000 copies of the paper printed from the site. Contributions responding to discussion questions or referring to other comments could be sent by e-mail or mailed in. Several thousand responses were received, and nearly 2,000 people registered to engage in the on-line Web forum.
- Nineteen expert roundtables were convened in different parts of the country on subjects related to the Dialogue. Material from these was posted to the Dialogue Web site, which also provided on-line access to weekly summaries of contributions, as well as video interviews with experts.
- Meetings were held formally for the first time with provincial and territorial governments, some of which also submitted reports to the Dialogue. All welcomed their inclusion and emphasized the need for continuing recognition of their role.
- Parliamentarians played an important role in the public discussion through meetings held in individual constituencies. Hearings by the House