

News Release

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CANADA-LATIN AMERICA FORUM LAUNCHED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced the creation of the Canada-Latin America Forum as part of the Government's long-term strategy to enhance Canada's relations with the countries of Latin America.

"The Canada-Latin America Forum will provide a focal point for Canada and Canadians to pursue specific interests and activities concerning our relations with Latin America. It reflects the government's decision to give greater emphasis to Canadian interests in the western hemisphere," stated Mr. Clark.

The purpose of the Forum is to increase knowledge and awareness of the major issues affecting Canada and Latin America. To this end, the forum will organize seminars, analyze emerging issues and exchange information on subjects of immediate interest to Canada in the region. These activities will embrace a wide variety of interests such as social and political development, juridical matters, business, trade and economic relations, environment and human rights.

The activities of the Canada-Latin America Forum will be administered by the North-South Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan research organization that focuses on international and Third World issues. External Affairs and International Trade Canada will provide the Institute with an initial grant of \$250,000 in 1990-91 and annual grants of \$200,000 over the next four years to support the Forum's programs. An informal advisory group with representatives from External Affairs and International Trade Canada, the Canadian academic, business and NGO communities will meet annually to outline Forum activities for the coming year. While the Forum will be based in Ottawa, its activities will be held in different locations across Canada.

- 30 -

For more information, media representatives may contact:

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