

- In February 2008, DFAIT hosted a **Democracy Dialogue** entitled "Canadian Approaches to Democracy Support in the Americas". It brought together 143 members of the Canadian, regional and international community to discuss challenges and opportunities for democratic development in the Americas.
- In March 2008, DFAIT hosted a conference organized by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law and the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) on Canada's role in the Americas, which led to the **publication of a special issue** on the same topic in the *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*. A follow-up **Experts Dialogue** meeting was held in February 2009 to discuss ongoing challenges and the role for Canada in the region.
- Canada hosted the 83rd Regular Meeting of the **Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute** on October 15-16, 2008.
- Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) recently completed a study looking at **Western Canada's potential business opportunities with Latin America**. In March 2009, WD hosted DFAIT Trade Commissioners from Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and DFAIT-Headquarters) to enhance their knowledge of western Canada's technology capabilities.
- As a follow-up to a business networking event organized by **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency** (ACOA) and DFAIT on the margins of the CDB annual meeting held in Halifax in May 2008, ACOA led a delegation of business leaders and educational institutions from Nova Scotia on a trade mission to Barbados and Jamaica in June 2008, in collaboration with EduNova and Nova Scotia Business Inc. A follow-up trade mission for Nova Scotia companies took place in Saint Lucia and Jamaica in March 2009.
- In July 2008, HRSDC led the Canadian delegation to the **First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Social Development in the Americas**, which took place in Chile. Canada actively participated in meetings on issues of poverty and inequality and discussed Canadian experiences by sharing a document entitled "The Institutionalization of Social Policy in Canada".
- Canada participated in the **Meeting of Ministers of the Americas Responsible for Public Security**, which met for the first time under the auspices of the OAS on October 7-8, 2008 in Mexico City. Ministers identified cooperative law enforcement training as a priority for follow-up under the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas. Ministers requested that the OAS Secretariat conduct a feasibility study to identify effective ways to strengthen the training and education of personnel in the region with responsibilities related to public security.
- Canada worked with the government of Costa Rica to hold a **workshop on international refugee protection** in Costa Rica in August 2008. Organized through the Regional Conference on Migration with the support of the UNHCR, the three-day workshop focused on legislation and programs for migration patterns. Representatives of governments and civil society from 12 countries as well as several international organizations attended.
- Canada was invited as an observer to the emerging **Pacific Arc** meetings hosted by Latin America countries with Pacific coasts, and is also following the development of the **Partnership for Prosperity in the Americas (PPA)** as an emerging vehicle for dialogue.

### High-level meetings in the region

- Canada has been a strong player in of the **Summit of the Americas** process since its creation in 1994. Canada has worked very closely with Trinidad and Tobago and other partners in the region to ensure a successful Fifth Summit of the Americas that will allow for effective discussion and measurable results for citizens of the region.