

LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL

The Canadian public's interest in Latin America is expressed in a variety of ways. Politicians, academics, journalists and others express views on what Canada's policy should or should not be in relation to Latin America in general, to individual countries, or to the possibility of Canada's participating in the Organization of American States and other inter-American bodies. Some people express opinions on aspects of Latin American affairs as more or less detached observers, without offering suggestions as to policies that might be adopted by the Canadian government. Others become passionately involved, and urge the government to take certain actions. Some are interested in Latin America primarily as a market - or a potential market - for Canadian goods and services; as a place for the investment of Canadian capital and "know-how"; or as a source of supply of goods not produced in Canada. For others the main interest may be humanitarian, or in cultural relations. For perhaps the largest group of Canadians with any interest at all the emphasis is touristic: Latin America offers warmth and sunshine when Canada is in the grip of winter.

Canadian Policy towards Latin America

In the period covered by this study there have been expressions of opinion on Canadian policy that have been made without reference to specific events, and comments on policy provoked by such events. The long-range view is taken for the