

We are becoming **"una gran familia."** A family of different cultures, of different languages and of many races, but a family nonetheless with shared values and shared goals . . . a family that cares for each other, that reaches out to help and encourage each other . . . that understands that our land is the Hemisphere from the Yukon to Tierra del Fuego.

—Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, April 1998



## CANADA AND THE AMERICAS: One Big Family

**T**he family of the Americas is about to gather once again in Canada. From June 4 to 6, the city of Windsor, Ontario, will host the annual General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). This event brings OAS Foreign Ministers together to discuss major hemispheric issues, such as the fight against drug trafficking, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the strengthening of democracy. Canada is celebrating its 10th anniversary as an OAS member. It will use the 2000 OAS General Assembly as a first opportunity to join with its hemispheric partners in considering themes for the 2001 Summit of the Americas, to be held in Québec City.

*Geographically, economically and politically, Canada's future is directly linked with that of the Americas. Together, we stand at a significant moment in our history. We face the collective challenge of transforming the region's economic, social and political promise into a more prosperous and secure future for all citizens of the Americas.*

—Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy

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