

Some emphasize Canada's complex federal character and increasingly heterogeneous population, suggesting that our experience of democratic pluralism might be able to provide ways forward for multi-ethnic societies seeking to overcome violent divisions; Sri Lanka is cited as a place where Canada has already begun to play such a role. On the whole, participants want Canadian values integrated into a foreign policy that is fully open to both our own domestic diversity and the world's, and engaged in respectful dialogue with other countries and cultures. Many also observe that our international influence will be more credible and effective through stronger domestic performance in enhancing the place of women, visible minorities, disabled persons, first nations peoples, children and immigrant communities in Canadian society. Most respondents welcome interfaith dialogue as a way of fostering reflection within and outside Canada on matters of acute global concern.

Promoting our Culture and International Education

Film, song, theatre and visual arts are all calling cards, each more original than the next. The artists who have created them are representatives of our peaceful, multicultural, respectful and accepting society. International promotion of art produced by Canadians is a non-intrusive way to showcase our society.

– Dialogue participant

Higher education and research cooperation at an international level turns the forces of globalization to societies' advantage.

– Dialogue participant

Many participants recognize the value of cultural diplomacy to Canada's international relations, and say that awareness of Canadian artists around the world can open doors to many new opportunities of



long-term benefit to Canadians. In the words of one contributor, such cultural diplomacy is:

...one of the most effective ways of enabling the Canadian voice to be heard abroad ... creating a positive high profile for Canada in the foreign media and among opinion leaders and decision makers from business, government, politics, academe and the arts.

The arts and public broadcasting, along with academic, youth, student and other "people-to-people" exchanges, are seen as important vehicles for promoting Canada to the world and bringing the world to Canadians. At the same time, there are calls for substantially more resources to be devoted to the promotion of arts activities and organizations abroad, including from Canada's aboriginal and culturally diverse communities; and such expanded support needs to be "repositioned" in the priorities,