




Background

The Canadian government is committed to greater public participation in foreign policy-making. In 1994 a Special Joint Committee of Parliament called for increased dialogue with Canadians and greater public input. In response, the Government's Foreign Policy Statement promised to reinforce "instruments and institutions...to ensure that the voice of Canadians be heard" in the foreign policy process.

The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development has been created to help Canadians outside of government contribute to the development of Canadian foreign policy. The role of the Centre is to :

- Provide policy information
- Alert citizens to opportunities for public contributions
- Facilitate and promote a policy development network across Canada
- Encourage and support policy development capacity in universities and colleges, NGOs and civil society
- Help integrate a public dimension into foreign policy-making activities



The Centre, the annual National Forum on Canada's International Relations, government consultations with NGOs, experts and others, as well as Ministers' meetings with a wide range of Canadians on key policy issues are reflections of a continuing commitment to enhance the role of citizens in foreign policy-making.