



- Why are we interested in projecting Canadian cultural diversity around the world? Because culture is the heart of a nation. As countries become more economically integrated, they need strong domestic cultures and cultural expression to maintain their sovereignty and sense of identity.
- Canadian artists convey a sense of our values and interests through writing, music, dance, theatre and the visual arts. Their work adds depth and mutual appreciation to our international relations.
- The vitality of our culture is essential to our economic success. In the new knowledge-based world economy, the skills of people — their education, ingenuity and social adaptability — will become key elements of international advantage. Our educational system, cultural diversity and continued dynamic growth in exports of cultural products and services will contribute significantly to our international achievements.

Our Focus: The Issues We Confront

- The Department handles a vast number of issues in the area of foreign affairs. Here are just a few:
 - the impact of landmines on local economies and the local environment;
 - global environmental problems such as climate change;
 - measures to control the international movement of illicit drugs;
 - humanitarian assistance for countries in need;
 - support for the development of democracy and democratic institutions;
 - economic sanctions against countries that violate agreements or commit war crimes;
 - the promotion of peace in war-torn countries;
 - the promotion of economic, scientific or cultural ties between Canada and other countries;
 - action against human rights abuses;