

To encourage further public engagement, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD), is currently facilitating the ongoing activities related to the *Dialogue on Foreign Policy*, which gives Canadians an opportunity to respond either by mail, by using the Internet, and/or in person at town hall meetings held by the Minister of Foreign Affairs around the country.

### **Recommendation 8**

*The Government of Canada should increase its bilateral security cooperation with Mexico. The Government should also examine means of beginning a trilateral dialogue with the United States and Mexico to explore common perspectives on security issues in North America.*

The Government agrees that bilateral security cooperation with Mexico should intensify as reforms within Mexico's security and intelligence community progress. Since the July 2000 Mexican federal elections, numerous exchanges between Canadian and Mexican security, intelligence, defence, as well as border management officials have taken place. In February 2001, Mexico's National Security Advisor came to Canada to discuss issues of civilian oversight, accountability and transparency. This visit was followed by other official exchanges on government security policy, the protection of information, classification and security screening. DND officials have also indicated to their Mexican counterparts interest in enhancing Canada-Mexico defence relations. These efforts resulted in the visit of the Minister of National Defence to Mexico in January 2002, which was very well received. Other DND initiatives have included ship visits to Mexican ports, and attendance by senior Mexican Army and Navy officers on courses held at the Canadian Forces College. Following successful discussions with Mexico at the Fifth Conference of the Defence Ministers of the Americas in November 2002, and a DFAIT-supported high-level Mexican Peacekeeping Conference in January 2003, the Mexican Minister of Defence agreed to visit Canada in 2003.

September 11 brought a new public security dimension to Canada's North American relations, and underlined Canada's interest in ensuring a smooth flow of people and goods across not only the Canada-US border, but the US-Mexico border as well. A more fluid US-Mexico border facilitates the Canada-Mexico growing trade relationship. For this reason, the Government has shared its border management experiences with Mexico and will continue to encourage these exchanges. In January 2003, the Deputy Prime Minister met with Mexico's Secretary of Interior for the second time in six months to discuss, *inter alia*, border management; and, the Minister of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) met with the Mexican Minister of Finance. The Government is also currently exploring how it might share information on migrants and visitors. Given the distinct interests, objectives and priorities in managing the Canada-US and US-

