

A STRATEGY FOR OUR NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

indicated that the South and West accounted for nearly two-thirds of population growth in the United States from 1900 to 2000. Population centres, and political power, are increasingly moving away from the Canadian border.

As the countries of North America become more interdependent in economic terms, we paradoxically risk becoming less familiar with each other. To mitigate this risk, and to harness the continent's potential in an increasingly competitive global marketplace, we need to ensure that we have effective mechanisms in place to enhance dialogue between the three partners. We will seek wider participation in answering the questions facing North America, to encourage more creative thinking on the steps ahead. For example, we need to examine with our North American partners the continent's role vis-à-vis such emerging powers as China and India, or with regard to the transatlantic relationship, as the EU evolves. We should consider other issues as well, such as cultural diversity, migration and the environment.

Canadians need to become more knowledgeable if we are to exercise "smart sovereignty." As noted in the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and International Trade report *Partners in North America*, there is surprisingly little research and policy capacity within Canada regarding our neighbours. The *Partners* report recommended that the Government take steps to promote more sophisticated policy making. Foreign Affairs will take steps to address these needs.

Specific Initiatives

- explore ways to promote a better understanding of each other's society, anticipating future challenges and enabling more

sophisticated policy making and productive cooperation, inside and outside government. This would advance the goals set out in the *Security and Prosperity Partnership*, to find ways for our citizens to live healthier, safer and more prosperous lives, and would include individuals from government, universities, the private sector and civil society;

- strengthen our public diplomacy capacity, including by raising our profile in the United States and Mexico through increased exposure of Canadian ideas, culture and innovation. This will enable us to better conduct targeted and effective advocacy in both countries; and

