

Engagement in the Americas – Canada's Vision

Canada's foreign policy approach to the region is based on three interconnected and mutually-reinforcing objectives:

Democratic governance: to strengthen democratic institutions, practices and principles that deliver freedom, human rights and the rule of law;

Prosperity: to build dynamic and growing economies, and promote responsible investment and open markets that will create new opportunities and jobs;

Security: to enhance regional stability and security by addressing the threats of drugs, organized crime, health pandemics and natural disasters.

This is a long-term vision. While Canada has views and experience, it does not have a monopoly on solutions for a complex and diverse hemisphere. Canada's engagement in the region is unique, reflecting its own history, interests and ideals.

Canada is committed to advancing these objectives simultaneously, recognizing that neither sustainable prosperity and growth nor equitable development and strong democratic governance can flourish in an environment of insecurity. Clearly, democracy is at risk when personal security and the possibility to improve living standards are compromised.

The advancement of this vision requires a sustained, consistent and focused effort that is based on the following instruments:

Reinforcing bilateral relationships:

Canada is strengthening its relations with key bilateral partners to deliver on common objectives, pursue mutual interests, and advance shared values in the Americas.

Strengthening regional organizations:

Canada is working closely with regional multilateral institutions such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Summit of the Americas to search for joint solutions to hemispheric challenges.

Bolstering Canadian partnerships:

Canada's engagement in the Americas is a whole-of-government priority, but it is also advanced through the work of other organizations, such as provinces and territories, Crown corporations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics and experts, and diaspora from the Americas.

Expanding Canada's presence:

Canada is also increasing its diplomatic presence in the region through high-level visits by the Governor General, the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers, as well as by increasing the deployment of Canadian civil servants in the coming years.

