

Together the partners have embraced a commitment to community and to a unity of purpose based on shared values and common goals — to strengthening democracy, to protecting human rights and enhancing human security, to creating prosperity, and to giving all citizens the opportunity to realize their full potential.

All partners recognize that the Americas are connected much more than by geography. Preparations for the third Summit of the Americas, in Quebec City in April 2001, reflect the deeper bonds of co-operation which now link the hemispheric family. This collective commitment to community will, of course, be at the centre of the Summit agenda.

Canada is also working with other governments on a range of sectoral interests that would have seemed unimaginable 20 years ago. Ministers responsible for trade, transport, energy, gender equality, education, labour, justice, finance, environment, sustainable development, health, development and agriculture now meet regularly. In the lead-up to the Summit in Quebec City, Canada hosted two ministerial meetings — finance and environment. And, in October, Canada will host a labour ministerial meeting.

Canadian support to the Americas, specifically the Caribbean and Central and South America, includes development assistance and co-operation. The Canadian International Development Agency provides ongoing support to address poverty, support education and enhance economic sustainability.

The Canadian Forces and, in some cases, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been involved in various efforts to bring peace and stability to the region. From peacekeeping in Haiti to humanitarian assistance in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch, Canada has assisted the Americas in responding to natural disasters and threats to peace and security.