

- Canada's work in Haiti goes beyond government and involves other Canadian partners. For example, the IDRC is contributing \$2 million to **support the efforts of Latin American countries to foster peace and re-establish functioning institutions in Haiti.** Participating research centres in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay are helping promote, inform and coordinate policies so that Haiti's regional neighbours can contribute to the country's reconstruction.

Academic relations

- Over **600 scholarships** are available annually to post-secondary students from the Americas under the following programs: the **Canada-Chile Leadership Scholarships**; the **Canada-Chile Equal Opportunities Scholarship**; the **Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarships**; and the **Emerging Leaders in the Americas Scholarships.**
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, **one regional network for Canadian Studies, 53 Canadian Studies Centres** and **8 Canadian Studies Associations** allow university students and professors in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela to learn about Canada through various activities, such as conferences, roundtables and Canadian experts' visits on specific themes.

Labour and employment agreements

- In November 2008, Canada and Brazil signed a Labour Cooperation MOU to **promote better working conditions, policies and employment programs.**
- In 2001, **Canada and Brazil** signed an MOU for cooperation in labour and employment, which was then renewed in 2004 and in 2007. This MOU covers industrial relations, labour administration, occupational health and safety, worker compensation systems, equity in the workplace, labour market and workplace information, and creation of decent work in small and medium enterprises.
- Canada signed a Labour Cooperation MOU in November 2007 with Argentina to promote better working conditions, policies and employment programs. This MOU facilitates and **encourages cooperation, exchange of information and best practices** between Argentine and Canadian officials, as well as union and business representatives.

Health

- PHAC is providing **\$18 million over four years to support PAHO's program on human resources** for health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, pandemic influenza and institutional development.

3) Collaborating with counterparts in the Americas

High-level meetings in Canada

- Canada hosted the **Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA)** in Banff from September 2-4, 2008 under the leadership of DND. Defence ministers from across the Americas gathered to discuss mutual concerns and regional challenges, such as natural disasters, illicit trafficking, transnational organized crime, civil-military relations and peacekeeping. They also made a continued commitment to MINUSTAH. The CDMA also made progress towards institutional linkages with the OAS. Since the meeting, Canada has chaired a working group to explore ways for the CDMA to cooperate with the OAS to improve the institutional capacity of the conference for follow-up between meetings. Canada is also working closely with Bolivia, the host of the next CDMA in 2010, to ensure an effective handover of hosting responsibilities.
- Canada hosted the 28th Annual Meeting of the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Board of Governors** in Halifax in May 2008, with Caribbean heads of governments, ministers of finance and development, governors of central banks, as well as representatives from international organizations and Canadian financial institutions, participating in the meeting.
- In September 2008, the Department of Canadian Heritage organized **Ignite the Americas: Youth Arts Policy Forum** in Toronto, which brought together young leaders and artists, cultural policy makers and industry leaders from around the hemisphere. This event focused on the important role that the arts and cultural expression play as an engine for economic growth, social inclusion and positive youth engagement both in Canada and throughout the Americas in addressing issues related to poverty, security and the stability of democratic institutions.