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Canada's Security Policy

Canada's security policy for the past 35 years has had three objectives:

- preserving peace through collective security arrangements, including membership in NATO and NORAD;
- promoting verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements; and,
- working for the peaceful settlement of disputes and the removal of the underlying political, economic and social causes of international tension.

These objectives are closely related to one another. In particular, participation in collective security arrangements and support for the Western deterrent are complementary with Canada's commitment to a vigorous arms control and disarmament policy. The two policies reinforce each other, serving the same goal of enhancing security and preserving peace. Security is the key. The Canadian Government does not consider that unilateral restraint or reductions by one side will lead to successful arms control agreements. Nations can be expected to accept reductions or limitations on their weapons only if they can be sure that their security will not be put in danger.