

Security

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

Security threats in the region range from crime, violence and drugs to health epidemics and natural disasters. These challenges transcend territorial boundaries, affecting Canadians and other citizens in the Americas. The economic downturn - whose impacts include reduced remittances and employment opportunities - also risks deepening security challenges in the months and years ahead.

Canada's anti-crime efforts in the region are largely conducted through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the OAS Inter-American Drug Control

Commission (CICAD). Canada's annual contributions provide support for efforts in the region to address drug control, corruption and human trafficking issues, provide training and technical assistance aimed at improving international legal cooperation, and support mentoring programs and criminal justice reform, among other efforts.

Canada is closely engaged with counterpart customs administrations in the hemisphere to secure its borders. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has a network of 16 border officers posted in the

Americas, whose mandate includes interdiction, cargo examination, intelligence liaison and anti-fraud activities.

Canada also plays a role in enhancing transportation security through aviation and marine networks. In particular, Canada co-chairs (with Colombia) a regional consultative group and funds capacity-building activities through the Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance, a committee of the Summit of the Americas process.

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Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Iroquois*, joined by HMC Ships *Calgary* and *Protecteur*, in April 2008 leaving for a six-month maritime security mission that began with surveillance operations in the Caribbean