

- **CANADIAN VALUES:**

Many of the value-based priorities of Canadian foreign policy – human security, good governance, democratization, a rules-based system, aboriginal rights, sustainable development, the role of women, etc. – find fertile ground for action throughout the hemisphere. These questions in Latin America become more important as our economic interests expand; the connections between poverty and inequality on one hand and instability and insecurity on the other are clear, and we have an important stake in seeing the region progress on all fronts at a reasonable pace. We should be building a hemispheric environment supportive of the democratic transformations in recent years - where public opinion remains firmly against a return to military authoritarianism.

To project effectively Canadian values in the region, posts and headquarters are making communications and media relations an integral part of all activities in and for the region. From outreach speaking engagements in Canada by Ambassadors, to involving Canadian businesses, environmentalists, academics and NGOs operating in the region, our activities in and commitment to the region must be clearly stated at every possible opportunity.

Taking our lead from the Canadian International Information Strategy, we will build on the opportunities offered by new technologies, to project Canada's influence, values and culture abroad. Latin America and the Caribbean have been identified as the first priority in the implementation of Canada's International Information Strategy (CIIS). The series of Summit-related events that Canada will host over the next two years is providing an excellent platform to project the Canadian identity throughout the hemisphere.

- **US/CANADA RELATIONS:**

In no other region do we have to contend with such a weighty US presence; this is both a challenge and an opportunity; we will use every opportunity to encourage a multilateral, inclusive approach to hemispheric affairs. Despite occasional differences, our relations with the U.S. on hemispheric issues are overwhelmingly positive. We have had very constructive dealings with them in the OAS and in the follow-up to the Miami and Santiago summits. We have also been successful in 'compartmentalizing' controversial issues like Helms-Burton, to avoid their souring other facets of the relationship.