

permits us to solve problems.” Canada has hosted the Summit four times in the past: Montebello in 1981, Toronto in 1988, Halifax in 1995 and Kananaskis in 2002 (a G-8 summit, with the addition of Russia).

The G-20 began in 1999 as an informal group of finance ministers from 19 countries and the European Union, along with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. As issues related to globalization seized the international agenda, the idea, strongly promoted by Canada, was to give a broader range of countries a voice. The first G-20 summit was convened in 2008 in Washington, D.C., to address the global financial crisis; additional summits followed in London and Pittsburgh, both in 2009.

CANADA SETS THE TABLE

As host nation for the two summits this time, Canada sets the policy agenda for both. Canada wants the G-8 nations to focus on the most urgent development issues, as exemplified by the initiative on maternal and child health. Canada will also launch the first G-8 accountability report, which lays out what each nation has promised at previous summits and what has subsequently been delivered—setting a precedent for similar reporting at future G-8 meetings.

“Our hope is that a new sense of accountability will inform future commitments, so they’re not just loose words but something that can stand up to scrutiny,” explains Rouben Khatchadourian, Deputy Director of the Summit Policy Division (MERGS).

At the G-20 Summit, Canada will encourage members to follow through on stimulus measures to lift the global economy out of recession, part of an initiative agreed to at the G-20 Pittsburgh Summit last September. Canada is also promoting policies to strengthen financial and regulatory systems, promote open markets and encourage governance reforms to make the World Bank and the IMF more credible and effective.

“We want the G-20 to remain focused on the economic issues before it,” says Ron Garson, Director of MERGS. “Close focus on core goals will provide effectiveness and cohesion.”

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

In the SMO, an experienced team is addressing the practical aspects of bringing the summits to life. The attention to detail required in simply arranging the comings and goings at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport has been daunting. Some 57 aircraft will use an exclusive infield terminal reserved by DFAIT.



2010: Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ont., where the G-8 leaders will gather.

1989 Canada becomes founding member of APEC

1990 Canada joins OAS

1992 Canada becomes founding member of OSCE

1993 Department renamed Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

1994 NAFTA signed

1995 Halifax G-7 Summit affirms importance of Russian integration into trade and financial system

1995 Canada joins WTO

1997 APEC Summit, Vancouver

1999 La Francophonie Summit, Moncton

2001 Summit of the Americas, city of Québec

2001 First Canada-EU Summit, Ottawa

2002 Kananaskis G-8 Summit affirms importance of assisting Africa

2007 North American leaders’ summits in Ottawa and Montebello

2008 La Francophonie Summit, city of Québec

2008 DFAIT establishes International Platform to oversee Canada’s mission infrastructure and services