

The government of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is determined to support their initiatives using all available means.

The rule of law, good governance and human rights

For economic partnership to succeed, Canadians must have confidence that within China the rule of law and transparency are respected.

The rule of law must extend beyond institutions to behavioural reality – a legal ethic. Laws on paper are ineffective unless they are enforced. Canada supports changes that reduce the gap between institutions, regulations and organizational behaviour.

One of the ways we will continue to encourage respect for the rule of law, human rights and good governance, but also sustainable development, is through Canada's Development Assistance Programs.

CIDA's [Canadian International Development Agency] China Country Development Policy Framework mirrors that with its themes of economic co-operation, environmental sustainability and human rights, good governance and democratic development.

CIDA is playing an important role by engaging agents of change in China in a constructive manner. Projects as diverse as the training of senior judges, the promotion of women's rights and the development, management and dissemination of statistical information all support good governance.

Sustainable development

CIDA's program also supports China's continuing economic reform and the promotion of partnerships between enterprises and institutions. The bilateral program is complemented by a large and active Industrial Co-operation Program, which assists Canadian firms to pursue joint ventures and other opportunities in China.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the bilateral program is currently developing projects in energy-efficient, clean production and the sustainable development of the resource-rich Tarim Basin.

Peace and Security

China can and must play a critical role in ensuring global peace and security. Canada welcomes China's participation in the institutions concerned with global governance. We encourage China to give full play to its ability to become a positive force in the world community.