

Canada's non-colonialist past, its clear commitment to multilateralism and its status as a major donor country have allowed it to assume a valuable intermediary role between the major industrial powers and the less-developed countries. Its recognized commitment to a rules-based international system and its history of active international involvement also add credibility to its participation in the summit process. In addition, Canada brings a unique perspective to the summit table given its membership in the world's leading organizations including the UN, the WTO, APEC, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie and the Organization of American States.

Today, Canada takes its place at the summit table by virtue of the wealth created by its more than 27 million people living from coast to coast. G-7 membership gives Canada an opportunity to influence the course of international developments in ways that serve Canadian goals and interests. All Canadians benefit from the strengthened ties among G-7 countries, which help map out common approaches to key issues in an increasingly interdependent world.

The Halifax Summit

The 1995 G-7 Summit meetings will be held at the Summit Place building and the adjacent Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, in downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia. In addition to official delegations, Canada will be hosting more than 4000 national and international media representatives who will provide news coverage of the event to the world. As summit host, beautiful, historic Halifax will open its doors and show the world what an attractive destination it is for business and pleasure.

The Halifax Summit will be the culmination of a year-long process. The issues on the summit agenda will be determined during preparatory meetings of national teams comprising sherpas (the personal representatives of summit leaders), sous-sherpas, political directors, and other senior officials from foreign and finance ministries. Prime Minister Chrétien's personal representative is Gordon Smith, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A number of other meetings will also help shape the Halifax agenda. These include various meetings of G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors, the G-7 Information Society Ministerial (February 1995), the G-7 foreign ministers meeting (to be confirmed), the APEC finance ministers meeting (April 1995), the G-7 environment ministers meeting (May 1995), the Quadrilateral Group meeting (May 1995) and the OECD Ministerial (May 1995).

The Halifax Summit will offer Canada an opportunity to frame G-7 discussions on important domestic and international issues at a time when the distinction between the two is becoming increasingly blurred. The meetings, to be led by Prime Minister Chrétien, will be underscored by events that have occurred in Canada and throughout the world over the past year. The principal theme of the summit will be measures to ensure that the international system remains responsive to the challenges that lie ahead. This institutional review is foremost in leaders' minds as a result of discussions held in Naples last year, and in response to numerous international studies. Canada looks forward to making progress on