
PROJECTING CANADIAN VALUES AND CULTURE

Our values and culture are important in themselves; they also reinforce our other objectives. Acceptance of values such as respect for democracy, human rights and the environment will help build stability which, in turn, is the pre-condition for prosperity. Promoting our values and culture also responds to Canadians' belief that we have made and must continue to make an important contribution to the world's governance.

Key values which the Government will continue to promote abroad are:

- respect for human rights, including support for the rights of women and children, through an approach which recognizes the importance of opening countries to our values through positive levers as much as possible.
- democracy, including the monitoring of elections through organizations such as the Francophonie and the Commonwealth, and support to the legal and institutional structure which nurtures a civil society.
- rule of law, including working to ensure that clear and transparent rules govern the trading system, and that rules- based regimes control arms and conflict.
- sustainable development, through all our foreign policy instruments, to ensure a careful balancing of trade, development and environmental considerations.

The Government will also assert abroad **Canadian culture** as a pillar of our foreign policy, not only because culture, including scientific and educational activities, is a major contributor to our economy, but also because Canadian culture expresses internationally the uniqueness of our country: its multicultural, bilingual and aboriginal character and its vast geography. To this end, the Government, among other things, will:

- examine the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee Report's recommendations concerning an international cultural strategy;
- bearing in mind fiscal constraints, work with Canadian partners to publicize our cultural and educational assets abroad.
- remain vigilant in protecting and promoting the capacity of our important cultural industries to flourish in the global environment.