



photo: DFAIT

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon speaks at a DFAIT event in March marking the 20th anniversary of Canada's accession to the OAS. Also pictured: (left to right) Peter Kent, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas), OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and former prime minister Brian Mulroney.

PRMOAS also serves a number of government departments besides DFAIT. While the OAS is probably best known for its role in promoting democracy and human rights in the region, PRMOAS has a counsellor representing CIDA within its mission. This reflects the OAS's active role in development, as well as CIDA's partnerships with the OAS and institutions like the Pan-American Health Organization. Because the OAS is also active in such varied areas as security, labour, culture and education, PRMOAS often represents—and hosts visiting missions from—Canadian departments responsible for these sectors.

The mission works well, with 12 staff—both Canada-based and locally engaged (LES)—juggling the various meetings and commitments. The longest-serving is Brad Weaver, an LES chauffeur who, since the mission's inception in 1990, has driven for all six of its ambassadors and sees the endless variety the job entails. "These are busy people, with committee meetings, special groups and tête-à-têtes going on from early in the morning until late in the evening," he says. Close ties among the staff of the mission and the OAS members, he adds, "bring lifelong friendships."

To celebrate Canada's 20th anniversary as a member state of the OAS, the mission coordinated the construction of an inukshuk that now occupies a prime piece of D.C. real estate on the main lawn of the OAS headquarters. Nestled between the White House and the Washington Monument, the inukshuk is a fitting symbol of Canada in the hemisphere—one that just happens to find itself in Washington.



photo: Sophie Leduc / DFAIT

An inukshuk stands on the main lawn of the OAS headquarters to mark Canada's 20th anniversary as an OAS member state.



photos: Juan Manuel Herrera/OAE

The ornate OAS headquarters on the edge of the National Mall.



## At a Glance [Canada and the Americas]

Canadian merchandise exports to Latin America and the Caribbean, excluding Mexico, totalled \$6.2 billion in 2009.

Canadian merchandise imports from the region amounted to \$13 billion in 2009.

Canadian direct investment in the region stood at \$123 billion in 2009, up 93 percent since 2000 and almost five times Canadian investment in Asia.

More than 5 million Canadians travelled to Latin America and the Caribbean, including Mexico, in 2008, an increase of 15 percent since 2007.