

Canadian foreign policy should identify Canada's security interests in Asia-Pacific as those of creating "a secure and stable environment, subject to the rule of law and characterised by sustainable development". Sustainable development should include "responsible prosperity" which involves attention to issues as diverse as pay equity and the development and enforcement of child labour laws.

GENERAL POLICY OPTIONS

Effective foreign policy development needs to include and build on a critique of current Canadian practice and existing policies.

Indigenous peoples in Canada and Asia must be at the table in policy discussions to speak on their own behalf, (the Circumpolar Arctic Council offers a model for a forum for international discourse that could be used in the Asia-Pacific context).

Canada should continue to use a wide range of diplomatic tools, including those of trade, investment, development and culture to promote the adoption of appropriate systems of law, trade, labour, human rights and sustainable development/environment.

Canada should take a leading role in international fora to promote the adoption of appropriate systems of law, trade, labour, human rights and sustainable development/environment.

Civil society linkages and exchanges need to be strengthened through formal and informal partnerships at home and abroad.

To enhance its influence and leverage, Canada needs to increase its on-the-ground representation in the region (government, non-government and commercial).

Canada should take advantage of the the 50th anniversary of the UN Human Rights declaration which offers a significant opportunity to promote human rights in the region.

Although multilateralism continues to be the preferred vehicle for diplomatic intervention, Canada should continue to use other avenues as appropriate.

Canada needs to enhance the role of Indigenous Peoples and Asian Canadians through inclusive staffing procedures at the domestic governmental level. This would help ensure the integration of diversity of opinion and experience.