



What values should Canada communicate: human rights, fair labour, ethical business, multiculturalism, global citizenship, education.

The values we identify as Canadian values are not uniquely Canadian, but draw on many traditions. Values such as freedom, societal and individual rights are important. Another is mutuality, or the willingness to be open to the scrutiny and criticism of others.

The group examined the Canadian commitment to human rights. It concluded that there is a need to encourage state elites to be more sensitive to basic rights, that human rights should not be conditional, and that the promotion of multiculturalism should be at the forefront of the Canadian agenda. This group also expressed an interest in a business code of conduct as one way of advancing respect for human rights. At the very least, participants in Team Canada trade missions should abide by it.

Canadian values are best promoted when Canada leads by example. Areas where this is applicable include education, development aid, and environmental sustainability. The notion of global citizenship was explored, with a stewardship role being seen for Canada.

Conclusion

The discussion in the working sessions was wide-ranging. One theme that emerged in all groups was that the Canadian Government take an active role in the promotion of Canadian values abroad. It can and should act in partnership with nongovernmental and business organizations, but the Government still has the leading role and should assume greater responsibility for this duty.