

In closing, there are a number of ways to help influence and encourage China to better respect human rights. Multilaterally, we take steps in organizations such as the UN to make our point. Bilaterally we discuss human rights issues with our Chinese counterparts. Development assistance lets us work with China to strengthen areas vital to human rights development.

Trade is also a powerful tool. It encourages co-operation, and co-operation leads to understanding and appreciation, with which we can better manage concerns such as human rights development.

Furthermore, initiatives undertaken by human rights groups in Canada continue to emphasize to all concerned that Canadians care about human rights. Rest assured, I will continue to work for the improvement or respect for human rights and democracy in China. As I tell both my Cabinet colleagues and my Chinese counterparts, I am a friend of China. Yes, I will continue to speak out against human rights violations in China, but at the same time I will continue to work within my means as a federal minister to help China develop in a meaningful way.

Pointing out when human rights are violated is essential. So too is dialogue between Canada and China. Dialogue lets Canada and China share concerns and provides the foundation to address important issues such as human rights proactively.

This is the effective way to promote change in China, and this is the course my government and I will continue to follow.

Thank you.