

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



I am pleased to present this document describing how Foreign Affairs will support Canada's International Policy Statement.

I see Canada's foreign policy as an outward expression of our society. Our experience of building one voice from many cultures, many peoples and two official languages (with many more widely spoken) defines us as a country. These are the ingredients of our international personality.

In an early 21st century marked chiefly by the impact of globalization, Canada's international personality is more important than ever. Our responsibility to protect and preserve the values and interests of our own citizens requires us to be a responsible global citizen.

Foreign Affairs has an important contribution to make in this effort. Our focus will be on providing leadership with respect to Canada's international priorities and on ensuring Canadians continue to receive high-quality consular and other services.

Our priorities include the management of our relations with the United States, which are key to the security and prosperity of Canadians. Globally, we intend to pursue a new multilateralism that emphasizes effective global governance, to strengthen Canada's regional networks and to reconfigure our representation abroad to reflect the shifting distribution of global power and influence.

I am pleased to note that Foreign Affairs has received additional resources to help carry out its core responsibilities. This will enable us to deploy more diplomats abroad, to respond more quickly to crises and to pursue an active public diplomacy program that ensures Canada is better heard, seen and understood.

I look forward to hearing from Canadians and to having an ongoing dialogue on how Canada can be a valued and valuable player in world affairs.

The Honourable Pierre Pettigrew
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères
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