

About *Canada World View*

Published quarterly in English and French, *Canada World View* provides an overview of Canada's perspective on foreign policy issues, and features international Canadian initiatives and contributions.

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Our cover

Young Canadian backpackers in front of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy. The various youth programs that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade helps implement have facilitated some 36,000 exchanges worldwide, with equal numbers of Canadian interns travelling abroad and foreign interns coming to Canada.

photo: Associated Press AP

OVERVIEW

It's a familiar and welcome sight around the globe: a backpack emblazoned with the Maple Leaf flag. Chances are that carrying it is one of the thousands of young Canadians who every year set off to explore the world by working abroad. And helping them is a range of programs implemented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, along with other federal government departments and agencies. This issue of *Canada World View* highlights those programs and introduces a few of the participants. It also reports on the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 26 to September 4. There Canadian youth had a significant presence, and their actions are making a real difference.

The Canadian presence was strong at the October 18–20 Francophonie Summit in Beirut, Lebanon. This year the focus was on cultural diversity—a key feature of our country's identity, and a topic on which Canada was able to contribute much to the Summit discussion. We examine the context of the Summit and profile the long-standing connection between Lebanon and Canada. This dates back to the late 19th century, when the first Lebanese immigrants crossed the ocean to begin new lives here. Since then, successive waves of immigration from Lebanon have enhanced Canadian society and added to its diversity.

Diversity in the arts is celebrated at Mexico's Cervantino Festival, from October 9 to 27, where Canada is the country of honour. Performing are well-known artists representing a broad spectrum of talent from across Canada. As much as the backpackers, they demonstrate the vibrancy of our country—a society open to the world. 🍁

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