

## THE NATIONAL FORUM ON CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- The Government's agenda for the National Forum is simple and straightforward. It is to bring ministers and Canadians together to discuss 1) the major changes which have taken place in the world, 2) how these changes can affect Canadian interests and values, and 3) where our foreign policy directions are right and where they need to be examined.
- The Forum is only one of the ways in which the Government will consult Canadians about our international relations. In addition to consultations that will take place every year between the Government and individuals and groups on a whole range of issues including human rights, development assistance, and peace and security issues, there will be public hearings across Canada by parliamentary committees on Canada's foreign and defence policies.
- The Government is bringing a diverse group of Canadians together at the Forum. The Government chose the participants on the following bases: 1) it wanted people at the Forum table who have exceptional experience and knowledge in the field of international relations; 2) it wanted to foster an exchange of views and ideas among individual Canadians, not a clash of agendas among interest groups; and 3) it wanted a representative sampling of Canadians.
- The National Forum is designed to foster discussion among individuals in their own right. Groups and institutions will be able to get their points across in the parliamentary committee hearings that will take place across Canada this spring and summer.