

REPORT FROM THE MEETING
DEVELOPING CULTURE POLICY - CANADA IN THE WORLD
May 12, 2000 (10:30 - 12:30)
Ottawa

In partnership with Hugh Stephens, Assistant Deputy Minister for Communications, Culture and Policy, and Minister Axworthy's office, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development initiated a discussion with broadcaster Ann Medina and Arts Director Colin Jackson on the further development of foreign affairs culture policy. The first roundtable was held with Heritage Canada officials to explore common interests and needs on May 12, 2000.

The participants agreed to the following steps:

1. Before the end of June an internal DFAIT meeting among Divisions to assess objectives, needs and current and planned activities. This meeting could benefit from a discussion paper. Heritage Canada might also consult internally.
2. An inter-department meeting to further explore the integration of culture in foreign policy and common/mutually supportive DFAIT and Heritage Canada interests and activities.
3. The CCFPD will prepare a short paper summarising any trends/themes in culture and values from cross Canada work with Canadians.
4. These efforts could be followed up by Hugh Stephens/ CCFPD with outside advisors, such as producers, IT business and others for a discussion on broad-based perspective of culture and foreign policy.

A number of points were made at the meeting that can help inform these steps :

1. There is a need to define a clear objective. What do we want to achieve and with what tools. (Ann Medina)
2. Culture in foreign policy might be stated in a stronger way: "the objective of Canada's foreign policy in a challenging word is to promote Canadian values and Canadian culture (including well-being, prosperity, peacekeeping, etc.)." (Steve Lee)