

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is responsible for the day-to-day management of our trading relations with other countries. Our negotiators defend Canada's interests in major international talks leading to agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Once such agreements are negotiated, we ensure that our trading partners live up to their obligations and assist Canadian business to take advantage of new opportunities created by those agreements.

Promoting Canadian Values

Canadians take pride in the fact that we have a society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, democracy, peace, and support for the disadvantaged. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade promotes these values in our activities with individual countries and as a member of international organizations such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Group of Seven (leading industrialized countries) and the Organization of American States.

We provide the Canadian government with advice on how to respond to human rights abuses, conflicts, development needs and other problems abroad in a way that is consistent with the values Canadians cherish. We seek out, on a regular basis, views of Canadians as to how we can better provide this service.

