

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. These values are reflected in the conduct of Canadian foreign policy, which has as its key objectives the promotion of peace and security, prosperity and employment for Canadians, and the overall projection of Canadian values and culture throughout the world.

DFAIT promotes these values in our relations with individual countries and as a member of such international organizations as the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the G-8 and the Organization of American States. On a regular basis, we seek out the views of Canadians on how we can better reflect these values as we go about our work. We have taken a leadership role on those international issues of greatest interest to Canadians, including the ban on landmines, promoting sustainable development and ending child labour.

Of particular importance are DFAIT's efforts to promote the Canadian arts and cultural industries abroad, as well as Canada's international education and academic relations program. There are 273 Canadian Studies Programmes around the world.

In 1998-1999, DFAIT supported some 450 Canadian cultural events abroad involving 4000 to 5000 artists.

Our arts and cultural industries contribute significantly to our prosperity by creating wealth – over \$20 billion to our GDP – and employment – over 600 000 jobs.