



Up Front: Taking Canada to the World

At the core of every country are deeply held values that shape the character of its citizens and largely define its image in the eyes of the world. Canada, a free and democratic nation of many ethnicities and religions, is known for its peace, security, prosperity and tolerance—and the championing of its core values around the globe.

For well over a century, Canadians have shown a united commitment to uphold what is right, what is just. Canadians have backed this commitment with action, integrity and, at times, great sacrifice.

It is in this spirit that we present the new edition of *Our World*, which highlights DFAIT's success in taking Canada to the world—in the promotion of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In this issue, we feature locally engaged interpreter and cultural advisor Khalil Hotaki, who has put his life at risk countless times while serving Canada in Afghanistan. In the Philippines, we see how our embassy has stepped up to help a community of displaced Bajau receive basic needs such as food, education and training for new livelihoods.

We also celebrate 50 years of Canada-Africa relations with two stories highlighting our department's work in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. On the other side of the world, in Guatemala, we see how DFAIT assisted in bringing the authors of a civil war massacre to justice.

Moving north, we highlight several projects and initiatives that have served to strengthen our bond with our closest ally and largest trading partner, the United States. In the digital world, we take an inside look at how social media are changing the way people participate in the political process—and how a group of DFAIT-supported bloggers played a key role in the Arab Spring movement.

Finally, we feature how our missions around the world are expressing their best through generous and innovative charitable work—often in a spirit of fun.

All of these efforts represent only a fraction of our department's exceptional work. As representatives of our vast and great country, we remain committed to upholding Canada's values the world over. Only through our combined efforts can we live up to Lester B. Pearson's prophetic words:

"No other country is in a better position than Canada to go ahead with the evolution of a national purpose devoted to all that is good and noble and excellent in the human spirit."

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