

Another of Canada's priorities is more regular political consultation with the Central American countries. The aim is to obtain their co-operation on security issues such as demilitarization and combatting drug trafficking and money laundering and to understand their perspective on peacekeeping and peace building.

Both Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State Christine Stewart have long-standing interest in Latin America predating their current positions with the government. Mrs. Stewart most recently visited El Salvador and Guatemala in March 1996.