

Canadian Firms/Canadian Values: Foreign Policy Implications

This paper sets out the policy implications of Canadian commercial activities in risky states and assesses the policy options available to the Canadian government to better manage such activities. It is structured as follows:

- Chapter 1 defines key terms and addresses the foreign policy implications of the business case for taking the issue of corporate responsibility to the level of foreign policy.
- Chapter 2 outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the current Canadian government approach to this issue, surveying both Canadian and host-country perspectives.

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Background Research Discussion Paper

This paper is intended as the first step in a research process. To that end it concludes with a list of eight questions for discussion and further research.

1. Do Canadian companies have a responsibility to host countries in which they operate? Prepared for Canadian Business for Social Responsibility and the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development

2. Does the responsibility of Canadian companies to host countries include human rights? If so, what are these responsibilities?
3. In the past, multinational corporations have been accused of excessive political interference in host countries. How should we deal with such accusations?
4. How should we deal with human rights violations in host countries?
5. What would you recommend to the Canadian government regarding human rights violations in host countries?
6. Is current Canadian law adequate to deal with human rights violations in host countries?
7. Surveying the trend of policy approaches to human rights violations in host countries, what would you recommend to government and business?
8. What can Canadian companies do to manage human rights violations in risky states, once the decision to operate in such states has been made?

Dr. Kai Alderson
Institute of International Relations
University of British Columbia
Email: kaiialder@interchange.ubc.ca