

Human security is something that strikes a chord with the Canadian public and reflects long-standing Canadian values.

—Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy
JUNE 29, 1999

Canadians Call for

HUMAN security Approach

Over and over, from one end of the country to another, Canadians have called for a human security approach to foreign policy. Their views have found expression in the various activities of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD). In the Centre's annual National Forum and its frequent policy development roundtables, experts and ordinary citizens alike have recommended that Canada's foreign policy give attention to democracy, human rights, civil society, children, small arms and peacebuilding. They have advocated an approach based on fundamental

Canadian values: the rule of law, diversity and multiculturalism, respect for human rights (including women's rights) and democracy, civility, and a strong civil society. Meeting in Saint John, Montréal and Vancouver, the 1999 National Forum focussed on the UN Security Council. It recommended that Canada promote a stronger human security agenda inside and outside the United Nations. In Saint John, participants also recommended that human security impacts be monitored when the UN imposes sanctions on countries, such as Iraq.

Similar recommendations emerged from earlier National Forums. In 1996 the subject was peacebuilding; Canadians from across the country met in Winnipeg and recommended a human security approach to foreign policy. As elements of human security, the Forum drew attention to democracy, human rights and peacebuilding, and the Canadian experience with diversity and multiculturalism.

The 1998 National Forum focussed on the Arctic. It recommended that foreign policy promote human security. Academics and other experts drew attention to human rights, civil society and peacebuilding as key human security goals.

Further, at the Calgary Roundtable this past March 17, the 75 NGO, business, academic and other participants declared that human security is central to Canada's relations with other countries in the Americas.

The CCFPD has sought to respond to this broad public interest. With the aim of injecting the public's ideas into the development of human security and foreign policy, the Centre has brought together a wide range of Canadian and other experts to address specific human security issues. For example:

- Gwynne Dyer chaired a discussion on "The Future of Conflict," with participants including Canadian Bishop Remi De Roo and leading academics;
- Chris Smith (Kings College, London) chaired a discussion on "Small Arms," with participants including representatives of Interpol and the International Red Cross; and
- Ralph Daley (United Nations University) chaired a discussion on "Human Security and Water Conflicts," with participants including Stephen Owen (University of Victoria) and the engineering consultant firm of RV Anderson.

The CCFPD has also supported a number of studies on human security issues abroad. Titles include *Human Rights and Security in Mexico*, *Lessons of Yugoslavia* and *Managing Diversity—Ukraine*. In addition, the Centre has supported a wide range of roundtables, papers and conferences on child exploitation, small arms, gender, peacebuilding and civil society. ●—



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Many of the Centre's more than 100 reports from public discussions and papers deal with human security issues and approaches to foreign policy. For more information, visit the CCFPD Web site (www.cfp-pec.gc.ca), or contact the Centre by telephone at (613) 944-4150, by fax at (613) 944-0687 or by letter at the following address: Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2.