

professional standards and requirements; ensure consistent approaches to teaching; and promote competence in information and communications technology skills. In the Americas, programs focus on improving school governance, administrative management and the quality of basic education.

Preserving and Strengthening Democracy, Justice and Human Rights

Chapter II focusses on Canada's efforts to advance democracy, justice and human rights. It highlights programs and initiatives to promote and safeguard the rights of all Canadians, including the right to due process, protection from discrimination and freedom from exploitation. It also demonstrates the importance Canada attaches to the rule of law; transparency and openness; civil society participation in public issues; freedom of thought and expression; and the protection of vulnerable groups, including women and children.

Canada works hard at home, regionally and internationally and through multilateral institutions — including the United Nations (UN), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Commonwealth — to promote and protect human rights; consolidate democratic values, practices and institutions; and strengthen the structures and systems that deal with the administration of justice.

This report examines the Government of Canada's adoption of domestic measures and its active participation in multilateral forums — including the UN, the G-8 and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development — to combat corruption; control and prevent the illicit consumption of and trafficking in drugs; prevent, fight and eliminate terrorism; and combat money laundering.

Canada's Drug Strategy was released in June 1998, setting out the principles of the government's commitment to addressing substance abuse domestically. The strategy aims to reduce the demand for drugs and drug-related mortality and morbidity; improve access to substance abuse information and interventions; restrict the supply of illicit drugs; reduce the profitability of illicit drug trafficking; and reduce the cost of substance abuse to Canadian society. To achieve these goals, the Strategy sets out a framework that recognizes the importance and interdependence of a number of components — research and knowledge development; knowledge dissemination; prevention programming; treatment and rehabilitation; legislation, enforcement and control; national co-ordination; and international co-operation.

Canada strongly supports international efforts to eliminate terrorism that are consistent with human rights, the rule of law and the protection of fundamental freedoms. Canada has signed 12 international counter-terrorism conventions — 10 of which have been ratified. A continuing review of domestic measures is underway to ensure compliance with UN and G-8 commitments.

Canada also works multilaterally through the UN and the OAS to identify appropriate counter-terrorist mechanisms. Within the UN system, Canada chaired the successful negotiation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. These conventions plus others form the basis of a strong international regime aimed at eliminating safe havens for terrorists.