

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada

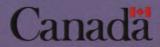


THE AMERICAS Our Neighbours, Our Priority

Our vision is a more prosperous and secure Canada within a hemisphere of increasing stability and opportunity.

Canada's engagement in the Americas, as announced by the Prime Minister in July 2007, is based on the promotion and enhancement of prosperity, of security and of the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.





We are in the Americas for the long haul—as people who share common political values, as economic and business partners, as neighbours."

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- Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Creating new opportunities for growth

Canada has substantial trade and investment ties to the Americas that are built on a foundation of mutual economic benefit.

To secure new opportunities for Canadian exporters, investors, innovators and service providers, the Canadian government continues to pursue initiatives such as free trade, foreign investment promotion and protection and air services agreements. Our experience with free-trade partners in Mexico, Chile and Costa Rica has shown that increased trade and investment can foster economic growth and prosperity and lead to expanded opportunities for citizens.

At the same time, we are negotiating labour and environmental cooperation agreements that will help position Canada as a commercial partner of choice in the Americas.

www.americas.gc.ca



Promoting a safe and secure neighborhood

Crime, drugs, terror, pandemics and natural disasters transcend borders. That is why Canada is working with its neighbours in the region to anticipate and respond to such threats. For example, in Haiti, our work with hemispheric partners on issues related to health, police reform and border management demonstrates how long-term engagement in the region can lead to greater security, stability and development.

Ensuring a free and democratic hemisphere

The people of the Americas have demonstrated their strong commitment to democracy. In support of this commitment, Canada is working to ensure that our shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law are protected and strengthened. The tools at our disposal include active diplomacy, development assistance, bilateral partnerships and multilateral cooperation, the last of which is carried out through regional organizations and processes such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Summit of the Americas. In addition, we are sharing our governance experience in support of more effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions.

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surpassed \$500 million in 2006.