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NATIONAL REPORT OF CANADA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
COMMITMENTS FROM THE FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Executive Summary of Canada's National Report on Implementation of the Fourth Summit of the Americas

Please note that all financial figures are given in Canadian dollars. The headings below are drawn from the Mar del Plata Plan of Action, "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance".

I. CREATING DECENT WORK

Occupational Health and Safety, Gender Equality, Eliminating Child Labour

- Canada contributed \$550,000 to strengthen occupational safety and health in Central America, Belize, and the Dominican Republic; \$294,000 to International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour projects in the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Colombia, Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and, \$233,000 to the Women's Empowerment Program (EMPODEM) in Guatemala.

Combating smuggling and trafficking

- Canada amended its Criminal Code to create three new indictable offences specifically addressing human trafficking, and announced measures to strengthen its response to the needs of victims of human trafficking.

Rights of All Workers, Including Migrant Workers

- Canada's *Immigration and Refugee Protection* ensures that foreign workers entering Canada are protected by the same labour standards as Canadians and/or permanent residents.
- In November 2006, Canada allocated \$100,000 to organize and host an Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour workshop on the Protection of the Labour Rights of Migrant Workers and Labour Market Programs.
- Canada contributed \$322,500 to be spent over 2 years for a project seeking greater harmonization of labour legislation among English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries

II. GROWTH WITH EMPLOYMENT

Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

- Canada contributed \$480,000 to the 'Phase II - Sesame Production and Marketing' project in Nicaragua, which aims to assist smallholder sesame producers and their families to improve productivity and competitiveness.
- Canada, through the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), has supported the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Business Project, a major regional initiative promoting entrepreneurship, the ICT capacity of SMEs, and knowledge sharing. Also through the ICA, Canada supports the use of ICTs to strengthen the skills of the region's workforce, by providing ICT related training opportunities for youth, entrepreneurs and citizens.

Ministerial Agreement on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

- In December 2006, Canada announced \$145 million in new funding over 5 years to the Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program (ABIP) for research, development, technology transfer and commercialization of agricultural bioproducts- including biofuels- in Canada.

Capacity-Building for Risk Mitigation, Early Warning and Disaster Recovery

- Since 2004, Canada has provided over \$25 million in assistance towards disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean. Canada's key disaster risk reduction priorities include mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development assistance and supporting regional and international organizations that can contribute to disaster risk reduction. Canada has continued to encourage the mainstreaming of gender considerations throughout disaster risk reduction policies and programming. Canada also responds generously to natural disasters in the hemisphere.

III. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Economic and Social Policy

- Canada has made significant investments in housing, such as the Affordable Housing Initiative (\$1 billion) and the National Homelessness Initiative (over \$1 billion). \$7.6 billion is invested annually in a range of programs for Canadians with disabilities, including the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit (\$2.9 billion) Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities (\$223 million) and a number of tax measures such as the Child Disability Benefit (\$35 million).

Health Policy

- Canada contributed \$1,285,000 for "Pro-Mesas Health" in Honduras, focused on Vector Borne Diseases and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)/HIV/AIDS.
- Canada contributed \$600,000 to the "Reproduction Health – Unicef" project in Guatemala. The project involves the national public health system, particularly at the municipal level, in strengthening the delivery and quality of sexual and reproductive health services, including AIDS prevention to teens.

Quality Education

- Canada entered into an agreement with the Province of British Columbia and the British Columbia First Nations Education Steering Committee to enable First Nations to assume meaningful control over on-reserve schools.
- Canada contributed \$4,096,000 for the 'Support to Basic Education initiative in Nicaragua, which an emphasis on school improvement, increasing primary school enrolment, the quality of primary education, and the governance and management capacities of community and education officials at all levels.

Primary Health Care

- Canada made a contribution of \$1,045,000 to the Regional Nurses Training Program in Central America.

Indigenous Peoples

- On May 10, 2006, Canada announced approval of a final Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The federal government set aside \$2.2 billion for the common experience payments and for the other programmatic elements.
- In 2005, Canada committed \$700 million over five years for Aboriginal health.
- In March 2005, Canada re-launched its Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Program, a \$10 million 5-year pilot program.

IV. STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Strengthening Democracy

- From November 2005 to January 2006, Canada contributed \$590,000 to electoral observation missions of the Organization of American States.
- Canada is providing \$495,000 in basic funding for the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) over two years,
- Canada has approved a \$4.75 million contribution over five years (2006-2011) to implement the second phase of the College of the Americas (COLAM) project.

Support to the Haitian People

- At the International Donors' Conference on July 25, 2006, in Port-au-Prince, Canada committed \$520 million over a five-year period (July 2006-September 2011).

Security in the Americas

- In February 2007, Canada and Brazil co-sponsored a senior leadership seminar involving the MINUSTAH troop contributing countries of Latin America to improve the effectiveness of the UN mission in Haiti. Canada continues to provide direct military and police support to MINUSTAH, and fielded over 100 Canadian election observers for the recent Haitian elections.
- Canada and Colombia co-chair the Western Hemispheric Transportation Initiative (WHTI) Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance (GEASSA).
- In May 2006, Canada's Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building (CTCB) Program approved funding for Phase Two of the ICAO/Canada Security Awareness Training Program.

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition

- Canada continues to play a leading role with respect to the Working Group for the Improvement of Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition within the Americas, and has supported the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network with financial resources and training.

Regional Training Programs in e-Government

- In partnership with the OAS, ICA renewed its support to the Network of E-Government Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC).

Canada's National Report: Implementation of the Fourth Summit of the Americas

Please note that all financial figures are given in Canadian dollars. The headings below are drawn from the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata, "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance".

This report highlights activities from November 2005 to December 2006.

I. CREATING DECENT WORK

Eradicating Child Labour:

- Canada's National Child Benefit is a federal-provincial-territorial initiative that provides income supports, programs and services for low-income families with children. In coordination with federal increases in income support, provinces and territories are providing key benefits and services such as earned income supplements, child care, and supplementary health benefits.
- Canada contributed \$294,000 to International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) projects aimed at the elimination of worst forms of child labour in the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Colombia, Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Reducing Youth Unemployment

- To reduce the level of youth that neither study nor work, Canada has implemented the Youth Employment Strategy (YES) to target barriers faced by youth between the ages of 15-30, particularly recent immigrants, Aboriginals and those living in rural and remote areas, to help them gain the knowledge, skills and work experience they need to participate in today's knowledge-based economy.
- Fourteen federal departments and agencies work in partnership with all levels of government, the private sector and community organizations to deliver YES programs. Sponsors include businesses, organizations (including not-for-profit, professional, employer and labour associations), health and education institutions, band/tribal councils and municipal governments. The YES includes Skills Link which, targets youth facing barriers to employment to help them gain the skills and work experience they need to succeed in the labour market, and Summer Work Experience, which targets secondary and post-secondary students to help them find valuable summer jobs.

Gender Issues in Labour Policies

- Canada contributed \$233,000 to the Women's Empowerment Program (EMPODEM) initiative in Guatemala to provide support to the creation of an institutionalized and sustainable public structure responsible for promoting equality between men and women (in the form of institutional strengthening and technical assistance to the Presidential Secretariat for Women) and to create favourable conditions for the empowerment of women.

- Canada contributed \$50,000 for a project aimed at building the capacity of union women in Central America to help ensure that women's issues, particularly discrimination in the workplace, are addressed within unions and federations.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Canada contributed \$550,000 to strengthen occupational safety and health in Central America, Belize, and the Dominican Republic.

Combating Smuggling and Trafficking

- Canada's Criminal Code was amended on November 25, 2005 to create three new indictable offences specifically addressing human trafficking. New sections of the Criminal Code prohibit trafficking in persons, obtaining a material benefit from trafficking in persons, and withholding or destroying identity, immigration or travel documents to facilitate the trafficking of persons. Penalties of up to life imprisonment exist for the offence of trafficking in persons. Similarly, Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) provides for penalties of up to \$1 million and life imprisonment, or both, if ten or more people are smuggled, or for trafficking in persons.
- In 2006, Canada announced measures to strengthen its response to the unique needs of victims of human trafficking. Working within Canada's existing legislative framework, guidelines have been created to assist immigration officers to provide temporary legal immigration status to victims of trafficking in persons. Victims of trafficking in Canada are also entitled to request protection in Canada by the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- The Federal Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (IWGTIP) includes seventeen federal departments and agencies including Status of Women Canada and is co-chaired by the Departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The IWGTIP serves to coordinate federal anti-trafficking efforts and to develop a federal strategy consistent with Canada's international commitments. This includes the review of existing laws, policies and programs that may have an impact on trafficking with a view to identifying best practices and areas for action.

Rights of All Workers, Including Migrant Workers

- In November 2006, Canada allocated \$100,000 to organize and host an Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour workshop on the Protection of the Labour Rights of Migrant Workers and Labour Market Programs.
- Canada has continued to be an active partner in efforts to understand and facilitate remittances, in particular by studying the characteristics of remitters in Canada and by working with its partners to increase access to financial services in developing countries.
- Through its network of Migration Integrity Officers, Canada has provided training around the world including in the Americas on document examination, false document identification and combating irregular migration with a focus on the protection needs of those persons seeking asylum. In addition to regular training sessions on travel documents to

migration officials, Canada provided joint training with the USA, Mexico and UNHCR in the context of the Puebla Process (Regional Migration Conference) in January and September 2006. Particular emphasis was placed on the issue of consular protection.

- Canada's *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* stipulate that all Foreign Worker Program components must ensure that foreign workers entering Canada are protected by the same labour standards as Canadians and/or permanent residents. Labour standards for the majority of workers in Canada, including temporary foreign workers, fall under provincial labour legislation and thereby vary from province to province. That being said, temporary foreign workers have the same recourse concerning labour standards as any Canadian and/or permanent resident. Additionally, in a unionized environment, the foreign worker becomes a member of the union and is thereby covered by the same collective agreement as any other member of the union. In most cases, temporary foreign workers can only enter Canada if an employer is offering wages and working conditions that are comparable to those offered to Canadians working in the occupation.
- In occupations where a post-secondary education is usually not required, including agriculture workers, live-in caregivers, and other lower skilled occupations, an employer can only hire a foreign worker if s/he agrees to meet the following provisions, which are aimed to protect the foreign worker:
 - the employer must enter into a written employment contract;
 - assurance from the employer of the availability of adequate, affordable accommodation; and
 - provision of medical and workers' safety insurance by the employer.
- The latter provisions have been designed to protect the interests of potentially vulnerable foreign workers, who may be prepared to accept sub-standard working or living conditions in order to have an opportunity to work in Canada.
- Canada contributed \$322,500 to be spent over 2 years for a project seeking greater harmonization of labour legislation among English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries; \$100,000 for an outreach project in Barbados, Jamaica and OECS countries to improve the contribution which migrant workers make to the development of the Caribbean economies and their people; \$90,000 to organize a workshop to foster dialogue among various stakeholders on the treatment of labour issues in the trade negotiations or arrangements in which the CARICOM is or will be engaged; and, \$25,000 to conduct a study to assess the likely impact of the free movement of workers on the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States labour market in the context of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

II. GROWTH WITH EMPLOYMENT

National Statistics Systems

- Canada, through the Institute on Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), has supported the creation of regional networks such as OSILAC (Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean), DIRSI (the Regional Dialogue on the Information Society) and PROTIC (ICT Project Database for LAC), which currently has more than 1,400 entries and continues to grow.

Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

- Canada contributed \$480,735 to the 'Phase II - Sesame Production and Marketing' project in Nicaragua, which aims to strengthen the performance of the Nicaraguan sesame industry by assisting smallholder sesame producers and their families to improve productivity and competitiveness. The project provides production and marketing services, as well as access to productive credit.
- Canada, through the ICA, has supported the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Business Project, jointly with the MIF/IDB, as a major regional initiative that promotes entrepreneurship, the ICT capacity of SMEs, and knowledge sharing. Other projects such as Aloo.com were supported as a way of promoting the adoption of new ICT solutions and services to contribute to the region's development, while improving the competitiveness of small-size enterprises and businesses.
- Through the ICA, Canada also supports the use of ICTs to strengthen the skills of the region's workforce, by providing ICT related training opportunities for youth, entrepreneurs and citizens in the region. Initiatives such as *Project Lanza* are being supported to promote knowledge sharing, provide capacity building on IT skills to local practitioners, and contribute to improve the productivity of SMEs in the region.

Policies that Improve Income Distribution

- Canada's Economic and Fiscal Update 2006 of November 2006, entitled: "Advantage Canada: Building a Strong Economy for Canadians", recognizes the important role that the Government must play in creating programs to help people who have traditionally been under-represented in the workforce, including Aboriginal people. To address this, the Government commits to build on programs such as the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Program aimed at securing sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in major economic initiatives, leading to lasting benefits for Aboriginal communities, families and individuals.
- Canada, through the ICA, is supporting new and ongoing low-cost technology solutions such as Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) to connect remote and underserved communities in the hemisphere, is supporting a regional initiative on Telework, New Forms of Work and Employment, and contributed to the 1st Brazilian Telework Congress (September 2006, Brazil) and the 11th International Workshop on Telework (August 2006, Fredericton, Canada). ICA also funded the design and implementation of a

Regional Training Model for Rural Women of Citizen Participation based in Mexico.

Ministerial Agreement on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

- In December 2006, Canada announced \$145 million in new funding over 5 years to the Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program (ABIP) for research, development, technology transfer and commercialization of agricultural bioproducts- including biofuels- in Canada. The program will support the development and operation of research networks that can include researchers from government departments, universities and the private sector. These networks will focus on feedstock production suitable for conversion to bioproducts; developing effective and efficient technologies for biomass conversion; and product diversification through technologies relevant to production of Bioproducts. Each bioproducts research network may receive a total of up to \$25 million beginning in 2007 and ending in 2011.
- Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture in Canada are overseeing the development of a common and coherent policy framework for ecological goods and services (EG&S) in agriculture. Pilot projects are underway across Canada and will continue in 2007-2008 to test the application of EG&S in various agricultural situations.
- Canada has begun consultations with stakeholders that will continue through 2007, on the Next Generation of Agriculture and Agri-food Policy, building on the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) implemented by federal, provincial and territorial governments in 2003. Programming under the APF focuses on food safety and quality, innovation and environmentally responsible agriculture production but most of the current agreements will expire in 2008. The next generation will transform the framework to ensure a competitive and profitable Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector in the future.

Capacity-Building for Risk Mitigation, Early Warning and Disaster Recovery

- Canada views disaster risk reduction as an integral component of poverty reduction and sustainable development, and supports strong commitments to disaster risk reduction made in the context of the UN system, regional organizations, the International Federation of the Red Cross/Crescent (IFRC), and international financial institutions.
- In recent years, Canada has supported training, education, capacity-building and policy efforts related to natural disaster risk reduction through a number of international organizations for country-specific as well as multilateral initiatives. For instance, Canada has given financial support to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to mainstream disaster risk reduction into its development planning and programming, and to the IFRC to support their global disaster preparedness and capacity building work. Canada also provides technical experts to the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination system and has funded training of experts from developing countries for this system.
- Canada works closely with humanitarian partners to strengthen disaster response capacities in order to ensure timely, effective, predictable, needs-

based and appropriate multilateral action in support of crisis-affected populations. Canada also responds generously to natural disasters in the hemisphere.

- Since 2004, Canada has provided over \$25 million in assistance towards disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean. Canada's key disaster reduction priorities include mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development assistance and supporting regional and international organizations that can contribute to disaster risk reduction. Canada has continued to encourage the mainstreaming of gender considerations throughout disaster risk reduction policies and programming in the Americas and around the world.
- Since 2002, Canada has managed and provided \$12 million for the six-year Multinational Andean Project: Geoscience for Andean Communities. This project focuses on the creation and application of high quality information on geological hazards to aid decision-makers and communities in land-use planning and disaster risk reduction in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.
- Since 2001, Canada has supported the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Program (CHAMP), which has, inter alia, created a Model National Hazard Mitigation Policy piloted in four countries and reviewed building codes in sixteen countries. Canada has also supported the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to establish an expert advisory group on health issues in disasters. Canada's Caribbean Disaster Management Fund supports disaster management bodies in the region to prevent and reduce the impact of recurring natural disasters. In addition, Canada's Caribbean Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Program was approved in December 2005. The program will be a responsive fund of \$7.5 million to strengthen regional capacity to mitigate, manage and coordinate responses to environmental degradation, natural disasters and climate change.
- Canada provides continued support for the work of the Canadian Risk and Hazards Network (CRHNet), a not-for-profit organization established in 2003 in response to a growing demand to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and emergency management in Canada. The goal of the CRHNet is to bring together international and national hazards research and emergency management practitioner communities to effectively share knowledge to develop approaches to reduce risk and disaster vulnerability.

III. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Economic and Social Policy

- Canada has made significant investments in housing, such as the Affordable Housing Initiative (\$1 billion) and the National Homelessness Initiative (over \$1 billion). The Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement provide income support to senior citizens and have contributed significantly to reducing the low-income rate for Canada's seniors. \$7.6 billion is invested annually in a range of programs for Canadians with disabilities, including the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit (\$2.9 billion) Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities (\$223 million) and a number of tax measures such as the Child Disability Benefit (\$35 million in 2006-07).

Health Policy: HIV/AIDS, Influenza and Avian Flu, Tuberculosis

- Canada contributed \$1,285,000 to Pro-Mesas Health in Honduras. The Pro-Mesas Health Fund finances activities identified by the Pro-Mesas Technical Advisors in the Health Sector Investment Strategy of November 2002. The two thematic areas of concentration are Vector Borne Diseases and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)/HIV/AIDS. Within these themes, specific projects have targeted Chagas disease and Adolescent reproductive health.
- Canada contributed \$600,000 for the "Reproduction Health – Unicef" project in Guatemala. The project involves the national public health system, particularly at the municipal level, in strengthening the delivery and quality of sexual and reproductive health services, including AIDS prevention to teens.
- Canada's Biennial Program Budget Funds (BPB) is supporting the University of Montreal in the provision of technical assistance for a Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS in Hospital General San Juan de Dios, Guatemala City (Phase II). Altogether \$24,000 has been granted for laboratory work, researchers/staff honorarium, and supplies. Complementary funding is also being provided by UNICEF, CIHR, and the Familiar Luis Angel Garia, Asociacion Integral de Salud.
- BPB funds are also supporting the planning, implementation and management of national blood network systems in selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to strengthening the monitoring and compliance with norms and standards for blood services.
- Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada have also provided ongoing support to the *Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)* in Trinidad and Tobago to strengthen country capacities in epidemiology, laboratory, and related public health disciplines through programs of surveillance, training, and research.
- Canada, through the ICA, is providing support to the projects "Punto "J": A Portal to educate on Health and HIV/AIDS from Youth to Youth" and "Linkage for Education and Research in Nursing (LEARN): A Caribbean ICT4D Initiative", contributing to promote ICT capacity building, regional networks and knowledge sharing.

Pandemic Preparedness

- Under the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), Canada, Mexico and the United States have committed to developing a comprehensive, coordinated and science-based North American approach to plan for and manage the threat of avian influenza or human influenza pandemic.
- The agreement recognizes the differences in the respective jurisdictions, while underscoring the importance of working collaboratively with all levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. The collaboration is carried out in a manner that is complementary to, and supportive of the work of key multilateral organizations.

Quality Education

- Canada has taken action to improve education on-reserve by entering into an agreement with the Province of British Columbia and the British Columbia First Nations Education Steering Committee to enable First Nations to assume meaningful control over on-reserve elementary and secondary schools in areas such as curriculum, educational standards and teacher certification. This approach represents the future of education for First Nations' students, as it provides a model that can be replicated on reserves across Canada.
- Canada contributed \$4,096,000 for the 'Support to Basic Education initiative in Nicaragua, which will assist the Government of Nicaragua in achieving the goals and objectives of the Education for All strategy with its emphasis on school improvement, increasing primary school enrolment, improving the quality of primary education, and improving the governance / management capacities of community and education officials at all levels.
- To address challenges such as the scarcity of educational content and the shortage of computers for educational use, Canada, through the ICA, continues to actively support the articulation of efforts at the regional level through initiatives such as Relpé – Latin American Network of Educational Portals, Computers for Communities, Frida – Regional Fund for Digital Research and the Open Access Cooperative Virtual Libraries Network. Through regional initiatives such as the Computer for Schools program, in collaboration with Canada and the OAS, ICA is contributing towards the strengthening of local capacity and digital literacy, as well as to the youth's insertion into the labour market and social inclusion in LAC.

Primary Health Care

- Canada made a contribution of \$1,045,514 to the Regional Nurses Training Program in Central America. The purpose of this project is to promote primary health care nursing to improve access to health care in Central America, by increasing the number of primary health care nurses available to work in rural regions of Central America and by increasing the capacity of stakeholders to develop a regulatory environment that accommodates primary health care nursing.

Indigenous Peoples

- On March 21, 2006, Canada launched an action plan to address drinking water concerns in First Nations communities.
- On May 10, 2006, Canada announced approval of a final Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The federal government set aside \$2.2 billion for the common experience payments and for the other programmatic elements.
- On September 29, 2006, the Government announced the start of consultations on the issue of matrimonial real property, in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations and the Native Women's Association of Canada.
- In 2005, Canada committed \$700 million over five years for Aboriginal health. This commitment followed an agreement made between Canadian First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders to work together to ensure that services are integrated and adapted to Aboriginal needs, that Aboriginal peoples fully benefit from changes in the Canadian health systems, and to develop upstream investments. The funding has been dedicated to three initiatives: 1) the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) intended to devise new ways to integrate and adapt health systems to better meet the needs of all Aboriginal peoples; 2) the Aboriginal Health Human Resources (AHHR) initiative intended to increase the number of Aboriginal people working in health careers, adapt health care education curricula to be more culturally appropriate, and improve the retention of health care workers in Aboriginal communities; and, 3) upstream investments in health promotion and disease prevention programs that include an Aboriginal youth suicide prevention strategy, Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, and Maternal and Child Health.
- In November 2006, Canada announced pilot projects to establish Patient Wait Times Guarantees for diabetes and prenatal care in First Nations communities. Due to a number of factors including geographical location and health human resource capacity within their communities, First Nations living on reserve may not always have the certainty of timely access to services. Over a period of approximately two years, Health Canada will test the delivery of its diabetes and prenatal services in a select number of First Nations reserves, based on time frames established through clinical guidelines and nursing practice.
- In March 2005, Canada re-launched its Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Program (IPPP), a \$10 million 5-year pilot program. The IPPP supported a number of small-scale projects partnering Canadian Aboriginal organizations and Latin American and Caribbean Indigenous Organizations and communities. Projects contributed to sustainable development and poverty reduction for Indigenous People by focusing on building the capacity of indigenous organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean and ensuring their ownership of the development process in order to improve the social and economic well-being of Indigenous communities in the region. Projects were funded during this reporting period in the following sectors: gender equality and youth participation; environmental sustainability; economic development; health; community

and institutional capacity-building; international policy dialogue; and, information technology for development.

- Health Canada proposed to have Indigenous health on the agenda for the 2006 cycle of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Governing Bodies Meetings. The resulting agenda item, “Health of the Indigenous People of the Americas”, was discussed at the 47th Directing Council Meeting in September, 2006. A proposed resolution to promote Indigenous health over a 5-year period was unanimously approved by all Member States, and steps are being taken to implement the four strategic lines of action outlined in the resolution through the coming years.
- In May 2006, Canada and Mexico joined forces bilaterally at a Workshop on Indigenous Health attended by approximately 50 participants with each delegation being composed of representatives from the government and indigenous communities. Areas for possible collaboration in the future will cover i) community health development, ii) traditional medicine / knowledge, and iii) organizational and normative issues.”

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Canada continues to participate actively in negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and supported the participation of representatives from Canadian National Aboriginal Organizations at the 7th meeting of negotiation in March 2006 in Brasilia.

Control of Drug Abuse

- Canada is an active contributor to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the second highest donor, with funding of close to \$2 million. Canada’s contribution is supplemented by in-kind support for training and participation in various groups.
- One third of the Contribution Agreement with CICAD is allocated to core funding of the organization. The remaining amount is directed at specific drug cooperation projects, which support both a demand and supply approach to drug control and abuse.
- During the period Canada chaired the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). This process resulted in a streamlined MEM mechanism which will be a stronger and more effective tool for hemispheric drug control efforts. Canada also chaired the Demand Reduction Experts Group of CICAD.
- The creation of the Caribbean Training and Resource Manual for correctional officer and service providers was followed up by the Central American Regional Workshop on Substance Abuse Treatment for Adult and Juvenile Offenders. CICAD's Demand Reduction Unit expanded on its previous technical collaboration with the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and other partners in the Government of Canada to hold a five-day regional Central American workshop “Substance Abuse Counseling and Treatment in Correctional Facilities.”
- A set of workshops was held in the Caribbean to improve evaluation knowledge and understanding in prevention project managers in all the Caribbean member states, especially the national drug councils. The workshops were jointly planned by head evaluators in Canada’s Drug Strategy, Health Canada, CICAD and Caribbean professionals.

- Finally, Canada has been an active sponsor and supporter of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) since its inception. The MEM is a tool through which the anti-drug efforts of the 34 CICAD member states are measured throughout the hemisphere. Canada has supported the following activities related to the MEM: Promotional Visit of the MEM to member states to provide information workshops, MEM in-situ visit to Antigua and Barbuda, pre-intergovernmental working group meeting to prepare member states for the main Intergovernmental Working Group meeting, and general professional support to the MEM.

Cultural Diversity

- Canada continued to support cultural diversity through its settlement programs and services with \$456.6 million in forecasted expenditures for the fiscal year 2005-06 to promote the social, economic and cultural inclusion of diverse newcomer groups in Canadian Society and which are delivered as a community effort through partnerships. Canada has also initiated complementary programs that encourage Canadians' support for and participation in the integration effort, and contribute to Canada's anti-racism strategies.

IV. STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Declaration on Security in the Americas

- Supporting Regional Needs: With the assistance of Canada, the new Jamaica Military Aviation School (JMAS), the only such facility in the Caribbean, will provide helicopter and multi-engine aircraft training to pilots throughout the region. Canada, through the Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP), provided support to build the JMAS — the building hosting it had been ravaged by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 – and will supply the curriculum, computer equipment and training for Jamaican instructors.
- As a major contribution to the organization of the 2006 Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas, Canada -- for the fifth time -- provided air transportation assistance to the majority of Caribbean delegates as well as Washington-based representatives of the OAS and other regional organizations.
- Canada agreed to assist the Caribbean Community with their preparations leading up to the 2007 Cricket World Cup (CWC), as the CWC is a unique opportunity to develop long-term, sustainable solutions to the security challenges faced by Caribbean states. It provided the services of a security specialist to the Implementation Agency on Crime and Security; who will be of assistance until April 2007. Canada also worked towards the implementation of the Caribbean Border Integrity Training project, which led to the training of some 153 officials. In addition, Canada is providing voluntary funding to support the efforts of multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Bank, and the Commonwealth Secretariat, who have been incorporating CWC security preparations designed to contribute to the development of a safe, secure and prosperous Caribbean into their ongoing activities in the region.
- In February 2007, Canada and Brazil co-sponsored a senior leadership seminar involving the MINUSTAH troop contributing countries of Latin America to improve the effectiveness of the UN mission in Haiti through discussions on better integrating the efforts of the military, UN police and civilian staff. This is in addition to the ongoing Canadian military and police support provided directly to MINUSTAH and over 100 Canadian election observers for the recent Haitian elections.
- Canada is a leading supporter of the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (\$1 million) and the OAS Special Mission in Haiti.
- Canada and Colombia co-chair the Western Hemispheric Transportation Initiative (WHTI) Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance (GEASSA). The GEASSA is comprised of senior aviation safety and security officials brought together to study the needs of the Western Hemispheric region, prioritize safety and security initiatives and deal with funding and implementation issues. Canada hosted a Safety Management Systems Awareness Session at the fifth meeting of the GEASSA in December 2005. This Session fostered Hemispheric Coordination to substantially improve the capacity for risk mitigation in aviation safety at the hemispheric level.

- In May 2006, Canada's Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building (CTCB) Program approved funding for Phase Two of the ICAO/Canada Security Awareness Training Program. The aim of this Training Program is to enhance aviation security by conducting regional training activities in Latin America and the Caribbean from spring 2007 to March 2009. The training activities will increase participants' knowledge and understanding of aviation security issues. The Training Program will also help beneficiary states to address priority areas in their aviation security systems.

Inter-American Convention Against Corruption

- Canada provided financial support to a project aimed at assisting the first four countries reviewed by MESICIC to develop national plans related to the implementation of the Committee's recommendations

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition

- Canada continues to play a leading role with respect to the Working Group for the Improvement of Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition within the Americas, which Canada helped to create and has fostered over the past 6 years. Through the Working Group and otherwise, Canada has promoted the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network by providing support both financially and with respect to the training of personnel in relation to the secure email system and the public web site on MLA and extradition. In addition to coordinating the Working Group's activities, including planning meetings, Canada has made recommendations in relation to areas of potential improvement and provided input and motivation in order to achieve such improvement. Within the Working Group framework, Canadian participants have been directly responsible for developing best practices for mutual legal assistance. Canadian representatives have also been promoting the institutionalization of the Working Group's projects for the improvement of mutual legal assistance and extradition and proposing administrative improvements within the OAS to help bring this about. Canada continues its leadership role as it prepares to step down as coordinator, assisting with the coordination of the first workshop on extradition (led by Mexico), supporting Argentina in its leading role in relation to the drafting of a model law for MLA, and assisting Argentina and Trinidad and Tobago respectively to prepare and host a Working Group meeting in their capitals in 2006.

Support to the Haitian People

- At the International Donors' Conference on July 25, 2006, in Port-au-Prince, Canada committed \$520 million over a five-year period (July 2006-September 2011). This amount will continue to support the four pillars (political governance, national reconstruction, economic recovery and access to basic services).
- Canada will continue its efforts to support the strengthening of security and justice, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and prison reform.
- Out of the \$520 million earmarked to support reconstruction and development in Haiti, \$135 million is for the period of July 2006 to September 2007: \$104 million will go towards projects in the fields of

health, education, state-building, rehabilitation of the power grid, and economic recovery; \$15 million towards the Peace and Security Fund; and \$16.5 million to maintain the over 100 Canadian police officers who are part of the UN Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) under the Canadian Police Arrangement.

- Canada played a leading role in supporting the Haitian electoral process with the International Mission for Monitoring Haitian Elections (IMMHE). Established on June 16, 2005 in Montreal, the IMMHE monitored the Presidential and Legislative elections held in 2006, deploying twenty long-term observers and 127 short-term observers for the first round of elections on February 7 and 130 short-term observers for the second round on April 21, 2006. Chaired by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, the IMMHE Steering Committee included representatives from eight independent electoral management bodies from throughout the Americas: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and the United States.

Regional Programs in Governance, Including e-Government

- In partnership with the OAS, ICA renewed its support to the Network of E-Government Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC), and supported the implementation of an international workshop on electronic government held in Ottawa, Canada (March 2006) with the participation of more than 50 e-government leaders from the region.
- Canada disbursed \$1 million in 2005-2006 to support capacity building and operational needs of the Guyana Electoral Commission through a grant to UNDP in coordination with other donors.
- Canada continues to be a strong supporter of OAS Electoral Observation Missions, through financial contributions and with human resources. From November 2005 to January 2006, Canada contributed \$590,000 to electoral observation missions of the Organization of American States. Electoral Observation Missions, through their reports and their accumulated experience, can serve as a good basis to build on learned experiences and best practices for the support of democracy. Canada was pleased to contribute, in this regard, to the Forum "Democratic Stability in the Americas: The Institutional Role of the OAS" which was held in Santo Domingo, within the framework of the General Assembly in June 2006, with a view to strengthening democratic governance.
- Canada is supporting a project on Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Caribbean: A Distance Course for Educators of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the OAS, through a \$450,000 contribution over three years. The project will allow for the development of an on-line course in citizenship education for teachers and teacher trainers working at the basic education level in the Caribbean. It will aim at strengthening teaching practices at the classroom level so that teachers and students become more knowledgeable about democratic values and practices.

- Canada is providing \$495,000 in basic funding for the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) over two years, to support cooperation and the exchange of exemplary parliamentary experiences and practices among the hemisphere's national legislators. This funding will be used among other things to support the activities of FIPA working groups on woman parliamentarians, trade and hemispheric integration and security.
- Canada has approved a \$4.75 million contribution over five years (2006-2011) to the Inter-American University Organization (IAO) to implement the second phase of the College of the Americas (COLAM) project. COLAM will help build the human resources capacities of the public and private sectors and civil society in support of the democratization process, respect for human rights and capacity building in the public sector in the Americas.