



Canadian Foundation for the Americas  
Fondation canadienne pour les Amériques  
Fundación Canadiense para las Américas  
Fundação Canadense para as Américas

CANADIAN  
INSTITUTE OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS

INSTITUT  
CANADIEN DES  
AFFAIRES  
INTERNATIONALES

*National Capital / Capitale nationale*

**CIIA / ICAI**

---

## Where Can Canada Really Make a Difference?

*A Critical Look at Neglect and Opportunity  
in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Preliminary Program

**Friday, April 21, 2006**

**Lester B. Pearson Building Ottawa, Canada**

(Limited parking is available at the Old Ottawa City Hall – 111 Sussex Drive)

Speakers marked with an asterisk\* have accepted.

**Special Guests: Canadian Regional Heads of Mission.**

### Conference Theme

*Sixteen years ago Canada's entry into the OAS was received with enthusiasm throughout the hemisphere. We had leverage and we exercised it to the general benefit, including our own. In 2006 Canada remains an active player, but there is disappointment that the Canadian focus on the region has declined. Despite rising trade and investment, Canada has reduced influence.*

*Is Canada dropping the ball? What has been the cost in terms of credibility and effective partnerships? We are deeply involved with Haiti, but can we make more effective contributions to regional security?*

*Will the new government look at our hemisphere as an opportunity to revitalise relationships in the one part of the globe where Canada has the potential to make a difference?*

- 8:00 – 8:30 AM Registration & coffee** Skelton Lobby
- 8:30 – 8:35 Welcome** Cadieux Auditorium  
Barbara Darling\*, President, CIIA-NCB  
John Graham\*, Chair, FOCAL
- 8:35 – 8:45 Overview of goals for the day and organisation of the Conference**  
**Co-Chairs:** Gilliane Lapointe\*, Vice-President, CIIA-NCB  
Eduardo del Buey\*, Executive Director, FOCAL
- 8:45 – 9:15 Keynote Address: A Fresh Look at Old Friends**  
**Presenter:** Hon. Peter Mackay, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
**Introduction:** David Mulroney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs

9:15 – 11:00

**Session 2**

Cadieux Auditorium

***Canadian Investment and Trade in Latin America:  
Obstacles and Opportunities***

Issues:

*Investment in Latin America is surprisingly strong – three times the amount in Asia. Trade has grown at 20% annually for the past two years. But new competition from China and India is changing the market landscape. Has our strategy been excessively linked to the moribund FTAA?*

*Long promised free trade arrangements with Central America, CARICOM and the Dominican Republic have not materialised, resulting in lowered confidence in Canadian partnerships. Did the government bungle in Brazil? What are the lessons learned from NAFTA with Mexico? What strategy will broaden and deepen these relationships?*

**Presenters:** Rob Wright\*, President, Export Development Canada  
Pablo Breard,\* Vice President, International Research, Scotiabank

**Comment:** Jose Tomas Letellier\*, Vice President Corporate Relations, Placer Dome  
Alan Dean\*, Senior Vice President & Corporate Secretary,  
Brookfield Asset Management (formerly Brascan)  
Representative of Canadian business in Mexico

**Discussion:** Participants

11:00 – 11:15

**Break**

Skeleton Lobby

11:15 – 12:45

**Session 3**

Cadieux Auditorium

***Perspectives from the Field***

Issues:

*What is happening in the region that will affect Canada's and Canadians' interests?*

*What are the opportunities or pitfalls of which we should be aware?*

**Presenters:** Canadian heads of mission from the Caribbean, Central America, Andean Region and Mercosur countries

**Comment:** Jean Daudelin\*, Assistant Professor, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University

**Discussion:** Participants

12:45 – 2:15 **Buffet Lunch**

Skelton Lobby

***Special Address: Canada and the Caribbean***

Issues:

*Is the word 'special' being eroded out of the special relationship Canada has long enjoyed with the countries of the English speaking Caribbean?*

*Security, disaster relief, migration and debt are major issues. Does the strategic blueprint need a new design? What is the best way for Canada to engage countries in the Caribbean?*

**Presenter:** Rt. Hon. Joe Clark\*, Former Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister

**Introduction:** Peter Boehm, Assistant Deputy Minister, Foreign Affairs

2:15 – 3:45 **Session 4**

Cadieux Auditorium

***Winds of Change: Growth of Populism and Social Democracy***

Issues:

*Failed expectations that the new democracy of the 80's and beyond would better distribute wealth to the impoverished majority led to a surge of 'populist' governments. Neo-liberal policies championed by the U.S. have been jettisoned and US influence is at its lowest point. The beginning of an historical political recognition of indigenous peoples is at hand.*

*The poor applaud the change and elect the changers, but are the benefits real or rhetorical?*

*What is the impact on stability and security?*

*How should Canada respond to new realities in the region.*

**Presenter:** Jorge Quiroga\*, Former President of Bolivia  
Representative from Venezuela

**Comment:** Peter Hakim\*, President, Interamerican Dialogue

**Discussion:** Participants

3:45 – 4:00 **Break**

Skelton Lobby

4:00 - 5:30

Session 5

Cadieux Auditorium

***From the Bleachers. A Non-Government Optic on Canada's Strategy***

**Issues:**

*If the premise is correct that Canada has neglected the Region to both Canada's and the Region's detriment, what are the components of a newly revitalised policy?*

*In what ways, in what sectors and in what institutions can Canada make a difference?*

**Presenters:** John Graham\*, Chair, FOCAL

Gordon Mace\*, Director of the Interamerican Studies Center and Professor of International Studies, Laval University.

**Comment:**

**Discussion:** Participants.

**5:30 – 5:35 Conclusion and Acknowledgements**

Barbara Darling\*

**5:35 Reception**

Skelton Lobby

**Contact:**

Please visit [www.ciaa.org](http://www.ciaa.org) and [www.focal.ca](http://www.focal.ca)

CIIA – Latin America Conference  
C/O FOCAL  
1 Nicholas Street - Suite 720  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

Fax: (613) 562-2525

Caroline Lavoie (clavoie@focal.ca)  
(613) 562-0005 ext. 234, 3:00 – 6:00 PM weekdays