Where Can Canada Really Make a Difference?

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

Program

Friday, April 21, 2006
Lester B. Pearson Building Ottawa, Canada
(Paid parking is available at the Old Ottawa City Hall – 111 Sussex Drive)

Special Guests: Canadian Regional Heads of Mission

Generously supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, with contributions from the Export Development Corporation and the Department of National Defence

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 – 8:45 Welcome Cadieux Auditorium

Overview of goals for the day and organisation of the Conference

Co-Chairs: Barbara Darling, President, CIIA-NCB
Eduardo del Buey, Executive Director, FOCAL

8:45 – 9:15 Keynote Address: A Fresh Look at Old Friends

Presenter: Peter Boehm, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Introduction: Jamal A. Khokhar, Director General, Latin American and Caribbean Bureau, Foreign Affairs Canada
Canadian Investment and Trade in Latin America: Obstacles and Opportunities

**Issues:**

*Investment in Latin America is surprisingly strong – approximately 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 F.G. Bréard, Vice President and Head of International Research, Scotiabank Group

**Comment:** José Tomás Letelier, Director Government Relations, Barrick Gold Corporation  
Alan Dean, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs  
Brookfield Asset Management Inc. (formerly Brascan Corporation)  
Chairman Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce  
Sam Boutziouvis, Vice President Policy and Director of Research, Canadian Council of Chief Executives

**Discussion:** Participants

11:00 – 11:15 **Break**  
Skelton Lobby

11:15 – 12:40 **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:** Ambassadors:  
Gwyn Kutz, (Central America);  
Matthew Levin, (the Andes);  
Gillermo Rishchynski, (MERCOSUR);  
Paul Durand (OAS); and  
High Commissioner Claudio Valle, (Caribbean).

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

**Discussion:** Participants
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: John W. Graham, Chair FOCAL

1:30 – 2:30 Buffet Lunch

Skelton Lobby

Session 4

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

Jesús Arnaldo Pérez, Ambassador of Venezuela

Comment: Peter Hakim, President, Interamerican Dialogue

Discussion: Participants

3:50 – 4:10 Break

Skelton Lobby
4:10 - 5:30 Session 5  
Cadieux Auditorium  

*From the Bleachers. Non Government Optics 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, Professeur, Institut Québécois des Hautes Études Internationales et Directeur du Centre d’études interaméricaines, Université Laval

**Chair:** Bob Anderson  

**Comment:** Fen Hampson, Professor of International Affairs, Director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University

**Discussion:** Participants.

5:30 – 5:35 **Conclusion and Acknowledgements**  
Barbara Darling and Eduardo del Buey

5:35 **Reception**  
Skelton Lobby

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