

Winnipeg Canada and the World “Values” Report

April 5th, 2003

Summit Overview

With nine in attendance the Winnipeg City Chapter’s first Foreign Policy Symposium represented a promising beginning from which to build. The group first shared their views on what foreign policy meant to them. Following this, each participant was invited to speak to the core values that they believe should shape Canadian foreign policy.

Once each participant’s presented core values were recorded, the group began the difficult challenge of refining and narrowing the diverse list of core values to develop a core value statement that clearly identified what values and interests should bear most fundamentally on Canada’s foreign policy. To aid in this process a series of scenario-based exercises were introduced that encourage participants to apply the groups listed core values to specific situations. The result was an engaging discussion that participants were more than happy to continue well past our allotted time.

Questions

- 1) Think of a one or two sentence vision statement that embodies your group’s reaction to the following: *2025: Canada’s role in a world of increasing global mobility*. What are the values underlying the statement you developed? [Please limit your response to 15-20 lines.]**

Time did not allow for discussion of this agenda item.

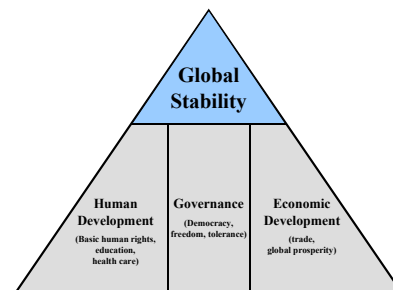
2) Are values such as human rights, democracy, respect for diversity and gender equality ones that Canada should continue to advocate in all parts of the world? If so, what are the best ways of doing this? [Please limit your response to a total of approximately 30 lines.]

- What kinds of catalysts could be implemented for more immediate change?
- What structural changes need to be implemented for more long-term, sustainable change?

The Winnipeg city chapter identified a need to first subdivide foreign policy into “External” and “Internal” subsets. In the case of “External” foreign policy, three pillar values were identified; human development (basic human rights, education, health care) governance (democracy, equality, tolerance/freedom) and economic development (trade, global prosperity) It was, however, agreed that the application of these pillar values should be guided by an over arching interest in promoting and sustaining global stability.

As a guiding principle, global stability emphasizes the central importance of not pursuing any single pillar value to the significant detriment to one or both of the others. For example, Canada should not aggressively promote democracy (governance) in a context in which doing would be likely to significantly compromised human or economic development. Likewise, Canada should not pursue trade and foreign investment (economic development) in such a way that would likely be detrimental to freedom/democracy or human development abroad (see Figure One).

Figure One



The core values of “Internal” foreign policy centred around greater consultation with the general public and all levels of government regarding specific issues of foreign policy. While acknowledging the need for one decisive Canadian voice abroad, more views should be consulted and considered internally before Canada’s voice abroad speaks for us all. The group also agreed that while Canada’s borders should remain open to immigrants and refugees, an increased emphasis should be given to the internal security of our nation and the related security of our neighbours. In addition, participants felt strongly that Canada seek to better utilize the newest members of our citizenry.

3) Should Canada seek out opportunities for fostering global intercultural dialogue and interfaith understanding? [Please limit your response to a total of approximately 30 lines.]

- **What values underpin this answer? (e.g., the values underpinning immigration are not necessarily altruistic – there may be a mix of self-interest and altruism)**

The groups suggested approach did not preclude the possibility of fostering a global intercultural and interfaith dialogue, however such a strategy would only be pursued as a strategic component of a larger strategy to support and increase global stability. That being said, some members of the Winnipeg discussion questioned the appropriateness of the formal participation of a secular state in global religious issues.

4) What are the best means for Canada to make its culture and experience known abroad? [Please limit your response to a total of approximately 30 lines.]

- **Please include your best two or three ideas.**

The discussion regarding Canadian culture centred on avoiding cultural imperialism, or the appearance of cultural imperialism; Canada should develop initiatives or institutions that provides self-guided access to each of the global and indigenous cultures that compose the Canadian mosaic.

5) Overall, what values and interests bear most fundamentally on Canada's foreign policy?

Please refer to part 1)

List of Delegates

Rich Baydack
Dougald Lamont
Kristie Pearson
Meagan Pearson
Sarah Piercy

Heather Ring
Marshall Ring
Carrie Steele
James White