MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS,
CANADA, AND THE EU

WHAT ARE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS?
In today’s world, many countries face the same problems. Sometimes a few countries face a serious problem and other countries decide to help them out. When countries work together to solve international problems they are using a multilateral approach. In other words, they agree that there is a problem and they work together, co-operate, to solve it. The opposite of a multilateral (co-operative) approach is a unilateral approach. A unilateral solution is where one country acts alone rather than with other nations.

WHAT KINDS OF PROBLEMS REQUIRE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS?
To find out what kinds of problems are solved multilaterally, visit the United Nations homepage, www.un.org. Through the U.N., countries try to solve a range of problems, such as human rights violations, child poverty, and disease. The U.N. is the biggest example of a multilateral body because almost every nation on Earth participates in its activities.

CANADA AND THE EU both favour multilateral approaches to solving international problems. As an example, both partners worked hard to ban the production and use of land mines. At the U.N. in 2003, they voted the same 95% of the time. In each of the joint declarations made by the two governments, the need for the international community is always stressed.