

in Riyadh in February 1999. Committees identify projects for implementation by government agencies and businesses in areas such as geomatics and mapping, health, education and training, telecommunications, and transportation. Economic and commercial relations, including joint ventures and investment, are also discussed.

- In Saudi Arabia in February 1999, during a two-day development mission involving 40 Canadian firms, Canada's International Trade Minister presided over the creation of a new Saudi-Canada business council. The council's mandate is to foster business partnerships between the two countries.
- Saudi Arabia is seeking membership in the World Trade Organization. The working party on the Saudi application, which Canada chairs, meets in April 2000.
- Saudi Arabia offers a wide range of opportunities for Canadian exporters. Priority sectors include security-related equipment, telecommunications, agriculture and food products, mining equipment and services, transportation, lumber and paper products, and medical education and training. Saudi Arabia is an important market for value-added, high-technology products, and is emerging as an important manufacturer of consumer industrial products in joint ventures with foreign partners.
- In 1999, Canadian exports to Saudi Arabia were valued at \$277.9 million and included armored vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and aircraft parts. Imports from Saudi Arabia for that year were \$428.9 million, consisting mainly of petroleum products.
- Canadian investment in Saudi Arabia was approximately \$10 million in 1999 and focused primarily in the light industrial sector. Saudi investment in Canada has been in financial securities and the real estate sector.
- The many Canadian companies active in Saudi Arabia include Nortel Networks, SR Telecom, Newbridge, Moriyama and Teshima, LeBlanc and Royle, Novopharm, SNC Lavalin, and Hydro-Quebec. They are involved in wide-ranging activities including electric power distribution, rural telecommunications, mineral exploration, computerization and communications. Some 7,000 Canadians currently work in Saudi Arabia.