

Canada–Chile Relations

- Canada and Chile established diplomatic relations in October 1941 when Canada was expanding its political and economic links with many nations in South America. Canada opened a legation in Chile in 1941 that became an embassy in 1944 with the appointment of Canada's first resident ambassador.
- Relations between Canada and Chile have been expanding steadily since Chile's return to democracy in March 1990. Chile has become active internationally on many issues that are also of concern to Canada, such as high seas fisheries, reform of the Organization of American States, regional security, trade liberalization, disarmament, human rights, and anti-personnel mines eradication.
- Numerous visits reflect the depth and breadth of the growing relationship. In January 1998, the Prime Minister led a Team Canada mission in Chile, accompanied by federal ministers, provincial premiers and territorial leaders, and several hundred business representatives. The visit resulted in the signing of 66 contracts valued at \$759 million and reinforced already strong government ties. The contracts covered several sectors and included small and medium enterprises.
- In November 1997, the Chilean President attended the APEC summit in Vancouver as well as a government program in Alberta. The President had visited Canada in 1996.
- Chile has joined the International Model Forest Network, a Canadian initiative that encourages the sustainable development of the world's forests. Chile's model forest is on Chiloe, its largest island. Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is contributing \$445,500 to help Chile improve its forest management practices.
- Cultural and academic links have been growing stronger over the past few years. In 1994, Canada and Chile signed a film and television co-operation agreement allowing for joint film and television ventures by the Canadian and Chilean film industries.
- Since the early 1990s, Chilean universities have shown an increased interest in developing official links with Canadian universities as well as in developing courses in Canadian studies or on Canada–Chile relations. During the Team Canada mission in 1998, a Canadian education centre opened in Santiago.