



Conclusion

Canada's relationship with Singapore rests largely in the trade sphere. Singapore's strategic location in Southeast Asia and its importance as a transportation, communications and financial centre has attracted a large number of Canadian companies and has provided a strong impetus to the development of bilateral trade. A number of agreements and arrangements in place between the two countries also provide essential support to this growing trade. Despite the efforts granted in this area, Canada and Singapore are relatively modest player in each other's markets and there is much room for expansion of these links.

Canada's presence in Singapore can, however, be tangibly felt first and foremost through diplomatic representation but also through the existence of several associations directly relevant to Canada's interest in Singapore. The presence of the International Development Research Centre's regional office, the representative offices of the three provincial governments and the recent establishment of the Canada-ASEAN Centre provide additional channels for communication and co-operation between individuals, institutions and business representatives from Canada, Singapore and countries in other parts of Southeast Asia. Singapore is represented in Canada from its Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. The appointment of an Honorary Consul in Vancouver and the launching of a Canada-Singapore Business Association in Vancouver early in 1990 are encouraging signs of a growing Singapore presence in Canada.

Singapore's membership in a wide range of international institutions and its active role within ASEAN make it a useful and effective interlocutor on regional and global trade, economic and political issues. Canada and Singapore regularly exchange information and views on such issues through formal and informal contacts and Canada's experience in a wide range of government matters is of interest to Singaporean authorities. While Canada's political and economic relations with Singapore are maturing, there remains significant potential to broaden these ties and improve the substance and profile of our bilateral relationship through institutional linkages, government co-operation and collaborative business ventures.