

Canada-Mexico Bilateral Relations

Canada has a wider spectrum of relations with Mexico than with any other country in Latin America. Under a most favoured Nation Trade Agreement concluded in 1946, two-way trade has reached over 440 million (Cdn \$) annually and this amount will grow with the coming into force of the Energy Cooperation and Industrial Cooperation Agreements. Mexico and Canada share the close proximity of the United States with all of the social and economic consequences that proximity implies. Over 200,000 Canadians visit Mexico annually and over 30,000 Mexicans make the return trip. Relations between the two governments are also close. The Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee (the only such committee at the Ministerial level with any Latin American country) meets regularly to consult on a whole range of political, economic, commercial and cultural questions of interest to both countries.

The importance of Mexico to Canada is illustrated by the fact that the first decision taken by the present Canadian Government was to invite President Lopez Portillo to visit Canada. It is also significant that the first official bilateral visit of the current Secretary of State for External Affairs to another country was to Mexico on April 7, 1980.

According to Canadian statistics, trade between Mexico and Canada had grown by 1979 to \$443.6 million; the volume of trade has been roughly in balance in recent years and makes Mexico Canada's fourth largest market in Latin America,