

Ireland

The entry of Ireland, the only non-NATO member of the European Community, into the EEC has given relations between Canada and Ireland an additional dimension. Both have co-operated in peacekeeping efforts and, in general, express similar points of view on most international issues.

Canadian interest in investment in Ireland has continued to increase, especially in the mining industry. Exports to Ireland also registered modest growth in 1973. A larger increase in Irish exports to Canada was mainly due to greater butter exports than in the previous year. Slightly more immigration from Ireland also took place in 1973.

Scandinavian countries

Iceland, Norway and Denmark are, with Canada, members of NATO, while Sweden and Finland follow a policy of international neutrality. All share similar policies in support of international institutions such as the UN and such activities as peacekeeping.

Canada and the Nordic countries face similar problems in research and policy development in their respective northern territories. As a result, scientific studies and exchanges of information, involving indigenous peoples, environmental protection and economic development, have grown steadily. Similar societies and the generally advanced views of Nordic countries on social and economic matters have encouraged numerous visits from representatives of all three levels of government and private enterprise.

Major areas of interest include ethnic minorities, urban and economic planning, regional development, industrial technology, natural resources management and future studies.

Canadian trade with the Nordic countries increased appreciably in 1973, with exports up 20 to 30 per cent in most cases. Since imports increased similarly, Canada continued to have a small trade deficit with this region. Norway remained Canada's main Scandinavian export market, and also attracted Canadian expertise and investment in North Sea oil exploration. Danish entry into the European Community in 1973 and the negotiation of bilateral agreements between other Scandinavian countries and the European Community did not appear to affect Canadian trade, at least in the short term.

While the Nordic countries are not a major source of Canadian immigrants, a significant number of skilled immigration applications from these countries occurred in 1973.