

Canada–Portugal Relations

- The Portuguese community in Canada totals over 400,000 people and is well established. The majority come from the Azores. Although Portuguese Canadians live mainly in Toronto and Montreal, there are significant Portuguese communities in Vancouver and Ottawa.
- The year 2001 marks the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the Corte Real brothers, Portuguese explorers, in Newfoundland.
- Canada and Portugal have reinforced their relationship through participation in international forums such as the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), NATO, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien visited Portugal and met President Jorge Sampaio in June 2000 when Portugal hosted the Canada–European Union Summit. Accompanying Canada's Prime Minister at that time were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister for International Trade, and the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.
- Portugal's Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Canada in June 1999 during Portugal's presidency of the European Union. The Secretary of State for the Portuguese Communities visited Canada in November 1999. The last state visit to Canada was in 1984.

Trade and Investment

- Portugal joined the European Union in 1986 and has experienced steady, significant growth in its gross domestic product (GDP). Since 1995, the GDP has grown at an average annual rate of 3.5 per cent, the deficit has gone from 5.8 per cent to -2.2 per cent, inflation sits at 2.9 per cent, unemployment has dropped by three and a half points to 4 per cent, and interest rates have fallen to their lowest point in 30 years.
- Two-way trade between Canada and Portugal remains steady. Canadian exports have become diversified, particularly in the services sector, which is undergoing rapid growth.
- Canada's main exports to Portugal are grain, fertilizer, fruit, mineral fuels, wood, machinery, fish, seafood, ores, slag and ash.
- Portugal's main exports to Canada are footwear, beverages, ore, slag, ash, wadding, felt, cork, machinery and electrical machinery.