

PORTUGAL AT A GLANCE

Portugal-Canada Relations:

- Canada boasts a large Portuguese - Canadian community (between 375,000 and 500,000 people), the majority of whom come from the Azores.
- **Portugal** and Canada's common participation in NATO, the UN, the OECD and the OSCE fosters exchanges between the two countries, which share similar perspectives on most major international issues.
- **Portugal** actively participated in the Ottawa Process to ban landmines.
- Bilateral trade totals approximately C\$450 million. The balance of trade is in **Portugal's** favour.
- The Portuguese company *Sonae* operates the largest particle board plant in the world at Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.
- Prime Minister Durão Barroso, the Minister of the Economy, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Assembly of the Republic visited Canada in 2003 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Portuguese community in Canada.
- An agreement on international youth mobility, which would make possible extended stays for Canadian and Portuguese young people in the other country, is currently being discussed.

Canada, Portugal and the European Union:

Many of the themes in the Canada-European Union Partnership Agenda also lend themselves to Portugal-Canada cooperation. Possible examples:

- Though the issue of fisheries is an occasional irritant between Canada and **Portugal**, the two countries are committed to strengthening their cooperation in the area of fisheries management within the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).
- Immigration and the integration of newcomers are topics of interest for most European Union countries, including **Portugal**. There is growing interest in Canada's experience in this area.
- **Portugal's** ongoing commitment to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) makes it a key partner for promoting sustainable development in Africa.
- There are a number of opportunities for cooperation in the science and technology sector, including forest management, renewable energy and the environment.
- Canada and the European Union will shortly begin negotiating a Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA), which aims to facilitate the movement of people and capital. We believe that **Portugal** and Canada will benefit from this agreement.

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