

Canada–United Kingdom Relations

- Relations between Canada and the United Kingdom are longstanding, diverse and vibrant, reflecting a wide range of shared values and interests. The relationship is rooted in a common history and friendship and in a commitment to strong transatlantic ties.
- Canada and the United Kingdom share a sovereign as well as the best traditions of parliamentary democracy. The new British Human Rights Act has parallels with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and recent moves in the United Kingdom toward the devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies is providing an opportunity for Canada to share its 134 years of experience with decentralized government.
- The shared history of the two countries dates back to 1497 when John Cabot, under the service of King Henry VII, landed in Terra Nova (Newfoundland). In 1867, Canada was established as the first federation in the British Empire.
- Canada and the United Kingdom have promoted democracy and human rights in the Commonwealth and around the world. They have defended freedom and fought for peace in two world wars, and Canadian and British soldiers have served as peacekeepers in Korea, Cyprus, Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, and Sierra Leone. Both countries have recently increased collaboration in defence training and procurement and worked closely on establishing the Ottawa Convention on landmines.
- Both countries promote multilateral co-operation and were founding members of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods system. Each country holds membership in international organizations such as the G8, the Commonwealth, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the World Trade Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- The role of Canadians in the Northern Ireland peace process exemplifies the degree of trust and confidence that characterizes the relationship. Currently there are three prominent Canadians involved in the peace process. They include General John de Chastelain, who heads an international commission on arms decommissioning; Justice William Hoyt, who serves on the inquiry into the Bloody Sunday incident; and former Supreme Court Justice, Peter Cory, who heads an inquiry into allegations of security force collusion in the deaths of eight prominent