

Canada–Republic of El Salvador Relations

Bilateral Relations

- Canada established diplomatic relations with El Salvador in 1961.
- On September 14, 1995, Canada opened an embassy office in San Salvador.
- During the civil war period from 1980 to 1991, Canada supported regional and multilateral efforts to end the hostilities. In 1992, Canada dispatched a contingent of military peacekeepers to serve with the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador.
- The Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, Christine Stewart, visited El Salvador in April 1994 and again in March 1996.

Trade Relations

- Trade between Canada and El Salvador is growing. In 1995, total two-way trade was \$66.2 million, with Canada's exports totalling \$22.6 million (newsprint and wood pulp, wheat, aluminum, automobiles, plastic products and resins) and Canada's imports totalling nearly \$43.6 million (coffee, clothing, fruits and vegetables).
- The structure of bilateral trade is gradually diversifying as El Salvador's industrial and service sectors develop.
- The main opportunities for Canadian exports are in the following sectors: energy and energy-transmission equipment, construction material, telecommunication equipment, consumer products, transport, railways, ports, agriculture, cattle and breeding stock.

Development Assistance Co-operation

- Bilateral aid to El Salvador focuses on democratic development, human rights, poverty reduction, environment protection and sustainable development.
- The Canadian Social Reconstruction Program, with a budget of \$19 million over five years starting in 1995, supports the sustainable social reconstruction of El Salvador by promoting democratic development and human rights and by contributing to production-oriented poverty alleviation. The program finances projects submitted by Salvadorean and Canadian organizations in the areas of policy reform and institutional development and also supports local initiatives.