



The Canadian and Israeli legal communities also work closely together. Besides sharing a common-law system and a belief in the independence of the judiciary, Canada and Israel have many common values, including the importance of the rule of law. In 1999 Canada and Israel signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and a Declaration of Intent focused on cooperation in the field of law and promotion of the exchange of legal officials, reinforcing the strong bilateral legal relationship. Earlier in the decade, the Canada-Israel Legal Cooperation Programme (CILCP) was founded as the first-ever joint venture in human rights and law reform between Canada and Israel. The purpose of the CILCP is to share legal experience, including experience related to the interpretation and impact of the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms. Through the CILCP, there have been a number of legal conferences and bilateral visits between Canadian and Israeli Supreme Court Judges, the latter resulting in a close relationship between the two courts. Both countries have benefited from this legal collaboration. For example, Israel's Supreme Court quite often considers Canadian jurisprudence when formulating its rulings. Canada, for its part, has benefited from Israel's experience and insights on the role and direction of international law, which has in turn enhanced Canadian efforts in this rapidly developing field.

On September 1, 2003, the Interim Agreement on Social Security between Canada and Israel came into effect. This agreement allows temporary workers from Canada sent to Israel by their employers to avoid paying into Israel's pension program, while continuing to be covered by the Canada Pension Plan. This agreement also benefits Israelis temporarily employed in Canada. Overall, it encourages collaboration between private sector organizations and facilitates career-advancing international opportunities.