

small enough to be explored on foot. Those with children can not only stroll beside the lakes in Chapultepec Park, but also have hours of fun at the city's biggest and best playground located in Polanco's Lincoln Park.

Polanco is a great starting point from which to explore the rest of the city. It's about 20 minutes from the fashionable La Condesa and La Roma districts, and not much further

has developed a close relationship with Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

People-to-people contacts have also risen. It is estimated that 1.2 million Canadians will visit Mexico this year. Some 200,000 Mexicans visit Canada annually, 10,000 of whom come to study. Mexicans also travel to Canada to work. The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP),



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from the centro histórico, or historic downtown. The heart of the centro histórico is the vast zócalo, one of the world's most impressive central squares. The zócalo is bordered on one side by a spectacular cathedral and on another by the National Palace, which houses a stunning Diego Rivera mural depicting Mexico's history. Earlier this year, the zócalo was the site of Canadian photographer Gregory Colbert's mammoth exhibition *Ashes and Snow*, where it was seen by more than 8 million visitors.

While Canada and Mexico have enjoyed diplomatic relations for more than 60 years, the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement gave the relationship a huge boost. Bilateral trade has since grown by more than 450 percent, currently exceeding \$22 billion annually. The Canada-Mexico Partnership, or CMP, has become the key mechanism for bilateral cooperation, illustrating dynamism and commitment and bolstering relations between our governments, private sectors and non-governmental partners. Political exchanges have also increased significantly, thanks to regular, all encompassing consultations in areas such as security, human rights and Latin American affairs. Prime Minister Stephen Harper

which Canada and Mexico have operated since 1974, is a model of legal and orderly temporary migration. In 2007, about 14,000 Mexicans travelled to Canada to work in farms in nine provinces under the SAWP. Furthermore, a growing number of Mexicans are travelling to Canada to work temporarily in many other areas. Recent discussions between Canada and Mexico focused on the construction, tourism and financial services sectors. Pilot projects in these areas will be announced in 2008 in the context of the Canada-Mexico Partnership.

Cultural exchanges have also grown, reflecting our strong relationship. For example, in the first half of 2008, Canadian Movie Director David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises*, opened Mexico's International Contemporary Film Festival. Montreal's La La La Human Steps performed in the spectacular Bellas Artes Palace as part of Mexico City's most important arts festival. And Vancouver photographer Jeff Wall, following his solo show at New York's Museum of Modern Art, opened an exhibition at the prestigious Museo Tamayo.

Guillermo Rishchynski, Canada's Ambassador to Mexico, says that the Canadian embassy serves as a