

had settled in Canada. Another 225,000 Canadians claimed Greek heritage.²⁶ By 2009 an estimated 20 to 25 thousand Canadians lived in Greece and almost 50,000 Canadians visited annually, providing the bilateral relationship with a deeply human dimension.²⁷ Greek-Canadians were increasingly part of mainstream culture in Canada, and never more successful. By the mid-1990s, three members of Parliament, Eleni Bakopanos, John Cannis, and Jim Karygiannis, claimed Greek origins. There were soon others. Pana Pappas Merchant and Leo Housakos were appointed to the Senate in 2002 and 2009 respectively, and in 2011, Costas Menegakis was elected Conservative member of Parliament for the Ontario riding of Richmond Hill. For almost a decade, George Stroumbouloupoulos has been a fixture on CBC television, hosting the nightly “The Hour” and “George Stroumbouloupoulos Tonight”.

Cultural ties flourished as well. The Canadian Archaeological Institute, renamed the Canadian Institute in Greece in 2005 to better reflect the full range of the Institute’s interests, continued to function as an unofficial centre for Canadian culture.²⁸ Athens and Montreal were declared sister cities in 1997, and Canada participated actively during the Thessaloniki Cultural Capital of Europe festivities in 1997. There was more. The two countries signed agreements for film co-production in 1997 and educational cooperation in 1998. A chair in Canadian Studies was established at the University of Athens in 2002, while centres for Hellenic Studies were opened in To-



Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper with former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou at Kalavryta Massacre Memorial during official visit in May 2011