

Gold mining, timber and cement production also provide important sources of income.

3) International Preoccupations:

In general, Fiji shares Canadian objectives in international affairs, and plays a modest yet sound and practical role in the UN, especially on issues of direct or regional concern such as Law of the Sea and economic (including North/South) negotiations. Fiji is a key and highly respected participant in the UNIFIL peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Fiji's primary concerns are nonetheless regional. A member of the South Pacific Commission (an organization of independent countries, territories and colonial powers) and the South Pacific Forum, (an organization of independent islands concerned with economic cooperation), Fiji supports the University of the South Pacific situated in Suva, Fiji, as well as a number of regional commercial undertakings such as the South Pacific Shipping Line and Air Pacific. Fiji has acceded to the Lome Convention, and receives assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

For reasons of history and geography, Fiji maintains particularly close relations with Australia, Britain and New Zealand, with whom it enjoys a unique political, economic and trade relationship.

Fiji is an enthusiastic member of the Commonwealth, and feels strong affinity for its traditional values.

4) Canadian/Fijian Bilateral Relations:

Canada and Fiji established non-resident diplomatic accreditation in 1970 (the Canadian High Commissioner to New Zealand is accredited to Fiji). Fiji has received Canadian development assistance from CIDA through the Non-government Organizations program and has benefitted indirectly from Canadian assistance to regional organizations, e.g. the Canadian-financed School of Natural Resources at the University of the South Pacific which is based in Suva, Fiji. Canadians have invested in the tourist and mining sectors of Fiji, and Canada and Fiji signed an investment insurance agreement in 1976.