



- 1 Inside the Canadian House of Parliament.  
Source: Shutterstock
- 2 Knesset plenum, the session hall of the Israeli Parliament, Jerusalem.  
Source: State of Israel Ministry of Tourism (<http://gallery.tourism.gov.il>)
- 3 Western Galilee: Karmiel Dance Festival.  
Source: State of Israel Ministry of Tourism (<http://gallery.tourism.gov.il>)
- 4 Pinchas Zukerman, Music Director of Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra.  
Source: Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
- 5 City of Toronto, skyline.  
Source : Shutterstock

## Arts and Culture

The Canadian and Israeli cultures overlap in many ways. Both countries are home to active and growing immigrant communities who are keeping their cultures and traditions alive—and bringing our countries even closer. Programs exist in both countries for academic exchanges and professional arts programs.

Canada and Israel share a passion for dance, music, literature and sports. On February 12, 2009 the Israeli dance company Batsheva again brought their renowned inventiveness to Canada. Likewise, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal performed in Tel Aviv for the first time on June 1, 2009, marking the start of their Middle East tour. Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra, led by Israeli-born conductor Pinchas Zukerman, has also performed in Israel and the Aviv Quartet, which is made up of Israeli and Canadian musicians, performs regularly in both countries—just a few of the sparkling examples of the deepening cultural relationship between Canada and Israel.

A sign that Canadian culture is overlapping into the Israeli community is the Canada Centre in Metulla, which is home to Israel's national ice hockey team and only Olympic-size skating rink. There you can find tributes to Canadian hockey greats Jean Béliveau and Roger Neilson. Israel's junior hockey team often tours North America in preparation for the World Ice Hockey Championships and in 2006 they played in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto where they were greeted particularly enthusiastically by Canadian Jewish and Israeli communities.

In Canada, Israel is also making its mark. The 2009 Toronto International Film Festival chose Tel Aviv to be featured in its inaugural City to City program. The festival showcased documentary and fiction films that depict life and culture in Tel Aviv.