



## Conclusion

Canada's relationship with Singapore benefits from substantial economic links. Singapore's strategic location in South East Asia and its importance as a transportation, communications, and financial centre has allowed its economic ties with Canada to grow considerably.

As a result, Singapore was Canada's largest trading partner in ASEAN in 1991, reaching \$945 million in total trade. With more than 65 Canadian companies operating in Singapore, including all of Canada's major banks, the country also has the greatest concentration of Canadian corporate offices in the region. Singapore's historical role as an entrepôt and its position as the most industrially advanced country in the region have served to attract these firms.

A number of agreements and arrangements in place between the two countries provide a base for this growing trade and, since Canada and Singapore are relatively modest players in each other's markets, there is much room for expansion of these links.

Canada's presence in Singapore is also felt through diplomatic representation and the existence of several associations supporting Canadian interest

such as the International Development Research Centre's regional office, the Asia Pacific Foundation's regional office, the representative offices of three provincial governments (British Columbia, Ontario and Québec) and the Canada-ASEAN Centre. These organizations offer additional channels for co-operation for Canadians operating in South East Asia.

Singapore is represented in Canada from its Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. The appointment of an Honourary Consul and the establishment of a Canada-Singapore Business Association, both in Vancouver, in 1990 are signs of a growing Singaporean presence in Canada.

Singapore's membership in a broad range of international institutions and its active role in ASEAN make it a useful and effective interlocutor on regional and global political and economic issues. Canada and Singapore exchange views on such issues regularly and the relations between the countries are maturing. Through the expansion of business ventures, government co-operation, and institutional linkages, there is the potential to broaden and deepen our bilateral relationship.