

Northwestern Europe

Because of the implications for Canada of EEC enlargement, there has been particular interest in economic exchanges with the countries of the Northwest European region. In addition, Canada shares with them many common interests in NATO, the United Nations and the challenges of Arctic development and environmental control.

Britain

The historically close relation between Britain and Canada continued throughout 1973, based now on mutual self-interest as much as historical ties. Bilateral visits and consultations were important. They included:

- visits by 27 federal ministers and 16 provincial ministers to Britain, assisted by the Canadian High Commission in London;
- a meeting of the Continuing Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs;
- a large number of official and private trade delegations;
- cultural events such as the successful 1973 tour by the Canadian National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Britain's changing role as a world power and the shift of British interests toward Europe have affected relations with Canada. Throughout these evolutionary developments, Canada and Britain have continued to share the same basic objectives within the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the Atlantic Alliance.

Although some Canadian exports may be adversely affected over the longer term by British entry into the European Community, Canada-Britain trade continued to grow. Exports to Britain included a higher proportion of manufactured goods, a trend Canada is attempting to encourage rather than remain exclusively a resource-supplier. Britain was also Canada's third-largest source of imports last year.

In 1973, Britain resumed its previous position as the primary source of immigrants. A very high proportion of British newcomers to Canada have skills in demand in this country and the ability to adapt quickly to Canadian society.

The National Arts Centre Orchestra, with Mario Bernardi conducting, toured Britain and several other European countries in 1973.

