

## **Introduction**

### **Canada-EU Relations**

Canada's diplomatic relations with the European Union (EU) date back to 1958 when Canada accredited its first Ambassador to the European Economic Community (EC). Since then, this dynamic relationship has continued to evolve and gain momentum. A flurry of important new agreements since the early 1990s is evidence that this relationship is stronger than ever.

Three general agreements provide the foundation for this special relationship:

- the Canada-European Communities Agreement on Economic Co-operation of 1976;
- the Canada-European Communities Declaration on Transatlantic Relations of 1990;
- the Canada-European Union Joint Political Declaration and Action Plan of 1996.

A growing list of sectoral agreements builds upon the base established by these general agreements. The fact that all these agreements are still in force demonstrates the vitality of this transatlantic relationship.