

opportunities for Canadian partners in information and environmental technologies, agriculture and agrifood, resource industries, engineering and construction.

- Canadian direct investment in Mexico in 1996 totalled \$1.3 billion, up from \$530 million at the end of 1993. Further privatization is creating new opportunities for Canadian businesses in transportation (ports, airports, highways); hydroelectric power stations; and the storage, transmission, and distribution of natural gas.
- Canada's principal imports from Mexico include motor vehicles and parts, electrical equipment, audio equipment and parts, petroleum oils, engines and parts, data-processing machines and parts, ignition wiring sets, air conditioners and parts, filtering/purifying machinery and parts, furniture, fruits and nuts, vegetables, glass and glassware and optical equipment. Manufactured products now account for 88 per cent of Canadian imports from Mexico.
- Canadian banks are playing an increasingly important role in the Mexican market, as witnessed by investments in two Mexican banks by the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia. The Export Development Corporation provided some \$600 million in financing in 1996 in support of Canadian exports to Mexico.

### **Development Co-operation**

- The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) does not have a full-fledged bilateral development assistance presence in Mexico, an upper-middle income country with a GDP per capita of \$4,200. Mexico does, however, benefit from programming through a number of CIDA channels.
- As a developing world power and emerging donor, Mexico joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1994 and is interested in learning more about Canada's policies and practices on development assistance. Canada is discussing a development assistance program for Mexico and the Central American countries.
- Canada has undertaken discussions with the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations on possible support for landmine victim rehabilitation. Canada has also participated with the Pan American Health Organization in a fact-finding mission to Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras.