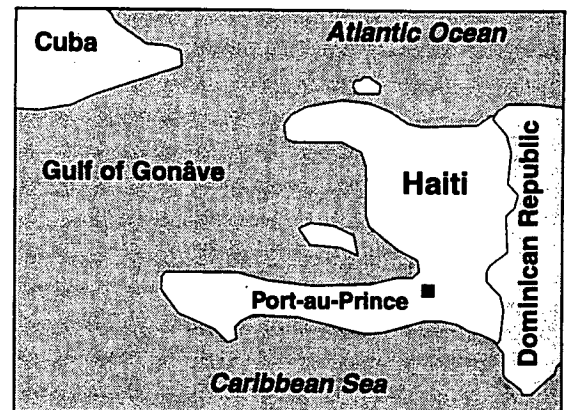




CANADA AND HAITI

Background

- Ties between Canada and Haiti date to the first half of the 20th century when Canadian missionaries arrived in Haiti. Immigration to Canada from Haiti grew rapidly during the Duvalier era.
- Canada has a dynamic Haitian community of about 60 000, most of whom live in Quebec. Thousands of Canadians have worked in Haiti over the past 50 years. Close to 2000 Canadians live in Haiti; most are dual nationals and are married to Haitians.



Political Relations

- After the overthrow of the Duvalier regime, Canada took part in efforts to promote democratic development in Haiti, including the Organization of American States (OAS)/ United Nations (UN) mission to help prepare for and observe the 1990 elections — the first free elections to be held in that country.
- One of the “Friends of Haiti,” Canada played a leading role in international efforts to reinstate President Aristide between 1991 and 1994. During the coup, Canada supported and co-sponsored numerous resolutions on Haiti in the UN and the OAS and led the G-7 and la Francophonie to issue statements supporting international action on Haiti. Canada also took part in a series of UN and OAS humanitarian, conciliation and observer missions to Haiti.
- Through 1993, Canada strongly advocated the use of sanctions against the military regime in Haiti and put in place all sanctions called for by the UN and the OAS.
- In July 1994, Canada helped draft and co-sponsored United Nations Resolution 940 authorizing the creation of a multinational force which could use “all necessary means” to implement the terms of the Governors’ Island Agreement.
- On October 15, 1994, Canada welcomed the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti as President, and on February 7, 1996, Canada’s Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for la Francophonie, Pierre S. Pettigrew, attended the inauguration of President René Préval. This was the first democratic transition of leadership in Haiti’s history.

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