

Person-to-person exchanges have also increased steadily, including in the areas of culture, sports and education. Canadian educational institutions host over 10,000 Mexican students annually, and 10,739 Mexican seasonal agricultural workers came to Canada in 2002. The Government helps to support a vibrant Mexican Association of Canadian Studies (AMEC), 10 Canadian Studies programs at major universities and over 350 university-to-university agreements. Human Resources Development Canada, in cooperation with its counterpart departments in Mexico and the US, delivers the Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education, a successful trilateral student exchange and academic linkages program. Canada is increasingly visible on the Mexican cultural scene, and, in 2002, was the Country of Honour at the prestigious *Cervantino International Festival*. Similarly, in 2002, *Mexico Week* served to enhance Mexico's visibility in Canada. Canada and Mexico are also working together at the International Network on Cultural Policy in support of our common objectives for the international cultural diversity agenda.

The Government's continuing efforts to support parliamentary engagement in Canada-Mexico affairs, including via the annual Canada-Mexico Inter-Parliamentary Meeting, are detailed in response to Recommendation 37. The Government also agrees that Ministerial participation in parliamentary visits and meetings should be encouraged where appropriate. During the Prime Minister's visit to Mexico in February 2003, an encounter was arranged for the Prime Minister to exchange views with Mexican parliamentarians on international and bilateral issues.

### **Recommendation 36**

*Canada should approach the United States and Mexico with a proposal for a trilateral North American cooperation framework under which the heads of government of the three countries would meet at least annually, and preferably every six months, on a prepared, mutually agreed agenda relating to matters of shared North American concern. Under this framework, foreign ministers and other ministers as appropriate should also be encouraged to have periodic trilateral meetings. A small supporting secretariat could be supplied by the host country on a rotating basis. In addition, Canada should investigate further options for enhancing this level of trilateral intergovernmental interaction on a more permanent and sustained basis.*

*and*

### **Recommendation 39**

*The Government of Canada should propose that the first formal North American leaders summit, on the model we have suggested, undertake to identify key sectors on which there*

