

Canada-Sweden Cultural Relations

Canada is home to about 200,000 Swedish immigrants and their descendants, mainly in the West. A Swedish-English language monthly newspaper is published in Vancouver.

The Canadian image has been successfully established in Swedish cultural and academic circles, especially through Canadian studies programs at universities. The Nordic Association of Canadian Studies was founded in 1984, and its member universities organize several Canadian Studies conferences.

A variety of courses with Canadian content are available at most Swedish universities; and students may major in Canadian literature at four universities (Lund, Uppsala, Goteborg and Stockholm). Swedish teachers have begun using materials from Canada in French and English language classes.

An increasing number of Swedish students are studying at Canadian universities, mostly under agreements between universities in the two countries. A new academic exchange agreement between four Canadian and four Swedish universities will be signed during Prime Minister Carlsson's visit. The Canadian universities are York, Carleton, British Columbia and Laval. Umea, Uppsala, Linkoping and Stockholm are the Swedish universities.

In Sweden, programs to promote Canadian arts and culture, notably authors, have also been successful. Swedish translations of Robertson Davies, Margaret Atwood and Roch Carrier, are readily available, and all three authors were received warmly on recent visits.

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra toured Sweden in September 1986; and Canadian recording stars, including Oscar Peterson, Leonard Cohen and Bryan Adams, are well known there. Canadian musical compositions, including experimental work, are broadcast on Swedish radio. Canadian films are prominent at the Uppsala and Goteborg film festivals; and they are shown frequently on Swedish television, along with Canadian television series such as *De Grassi Junior High*.

With 30 Swedish hockey players currently under contract in North America and regular matches between Canada and Sweden in international tournaments, ice hockey remains a common interest. Stockholm hosted the 1989 World Ice Hockey Championships at which Canada won a silver medal.

There is regular contact between Canadian and Swedish research institutions, with a particular focus on Arctic science. In 1990, Richard Taylor (Physics) became the sixth Canadian to win a Nobel Prize. The others were Frederick Banting (Medicine, 1923), Lester Pearson (Peace, 1957), Gerhard Hertzberg (Chemistry, 1971), Henry Toube (Chemistry, 1983) and John Polanyi (Chemistry, 1986).