

Canada – Finland Bilateral Relations

As northern, bilingual, parliamentary democracies with similar geography, climate and economic resources, Canada and Finland have much in common. Canadians and Finns work together in such organizations as the United Nations (UN) and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), and have a particular interest in peacekeeping and in the protection of the environment. Canada, Finland, and the other Arctic countries are working on ways to protect the Arctic environment.

A bilateral agreement on air services in June 1988 gave Finnair access to Toronto in 1989 and gave Canadian air transporters the possibility of expanding their services to Helsinki. During a visit to Finland in May 1990, International Trade Minister John Crosbie signed tax and air service agreements and an exchange of letters on science and technology cooperation. In April, the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds, Charles Mayer, visited Finland; and the Finnish Agriculture Minister, Toivo Pohjala, visited Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

There are 91,000 Finnish-born Canadian citizens; and each year almost 15,000 Finns visit Canada. Approximately 145 Finnish young people study annually in Canada.

More than 70 contemporary Canadian literary works have been translated into Finnish, and there is a growing interest in Canadian studies. There is also a common interest in winter sports because of the similarity in climates of the two countries.