

BACKGROUND

CANADA-SPAIN BILATERAL RELATIONS

- Canada's bilateral relations with Spain have been growing rapidly in a wide variety of fields, including trade, investment, foreign policy and culture.
- President of the Government Felipe González visited Canada in 1990 and King Juan Carlos came to Canada in October 1991. The Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall met Foreign Minister Ordoñez in June 1991, and International Trade Minister Michael Wilson led a business delegation to Spain in July of the same year. Defence Minister Marcel Masse went to Spain last December to explore opportunities in defence industrial co-operation.
- In foreign policy, Canada and Spain share interest in human rights, peacekeeping and disarmament, matters in which an active dialogue has been initiated.
- Canada and Spain have been closely involved in efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East and Central America.
- An enduring problem in the bilateral relationship is overfishing. Efforts are being made to resolve this issue.
- With a GDP of \$510 billion in 1990, Spain is the world's tenth industrial power and the fifth largest economy in Europe.
- The value of Canada's trade with Spain was more than \$940 million in 1991, roughly twice as much as it was only six years ago.
- Canadian exports, totalling \$483 million, comprised mainly mineral ores and fuels, aircraft parts and machinery.
- Imports from Spain, reaching \$460 million, consisted principally of rubber products, footwear, machinery and electrical equipment.
- Spain is now one of the top 10 destinations for Canadian investment abroad.
- Some 200 000 Canadian tourists visit Spain each year, and about 2 000 Canadians live there permanently.
- Canada has some 50 000 citizens of Spanish origin, mostly in Toronto and Montreal.