

THE NETHERLANDS AT A GLANCE

Netherlands-Canada Relations:

- Canada and the **Netherlands** enjoy a close relationship rooted in history. Canadian troops were on the front lines during the liberation of the **Netherlands** in 1945, and the Dutch Royal family lived in Ottawa during the Second World War. Immigration, trade, investment and shared values also contribute to the quality of our relations.
- Our two countries cooperate closely in the area foreign policy because of our shared perspectives and approaches concerning trans-Atlantic relations, defence and security policies, human security, international finance and development assistance.
- The **Netherlands** is Canada's fourth-largest foreign investor after the United States, France and the United Kingdom, with direct investment worth C\$13.768 billion. Canadians have invested C\$13.727 billion in the **Netherlands**.
- Our exports to the **Netherlands**, our tenth-largest trading partner, exceeded C\$1.6 billion in 2003 and our imports from the **Netherlands** were worth over C\$1.6 billion.
- Last fall, Canada and the **Netherlands** embarked on a new era of cooperation, the "Nouvel Élan," when a Joint Declaration was signed by our Prime Ministers. This initiative is aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of political dialogue, trade and investment, youth exchanges, and science and technology.
- The Hague, where the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the new International Criminal Court are located, has become a global judicial capital of interest to all Canadians.

Canada, the Netherlands and the European Union:

Many of the themes in the Canada-European Union Partnership Agenda also lend themselves to cooperation between the Netherlands and Canada. Possible examples:

- Canada and the **Netherlands** enjoy particularly close relations. Priority sectors of cooperation that are also of great interest to the EU include investment, science and technology, innovation, and research and development.
- Integrating immigrants, a topic of considerable interest in Europe, is an area in which we can compare our respective experiences and learn from each other.
- Canada and the **Netherlands** cooperate to promote international security, the fight against terrorism, and effective multilateralism that fosters global prosperity.
- Canada and the European Union will shortly begin negotiating a Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA), which aims to facilitate the movement of people and capital. Both Canada and the **Netherlands** will benefit from this agreement.

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