

- Contact between Canadians and Mexicans has been increasing in recent years. About one million Canadians travel to Mexico each year, while some 70,000 Mexicans visit Canada. The level of cultural exchanges has risen, and such exchanges now include a program to encourage Canadian studies in Mexican universities.
- Another program allows Mexican agricultural workers to enter Canada during seasons when workers are in short supply.
- Canada is represented in Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara, with honorary consuls in Acapulco, Cancun, Mazatlan, Oaxaca, Puerto Vallarta, San Miguel de Allende and Tijuana. Mexico is represented in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, with honorary consuls in Calgary, Quebec City, Dartmouth and St. John's.
- The human rights commissions of Canada and Mexico signed a co-operation agreement in October 1995. Although officials are still in the early stages of implementing this agreement, a joint proposal has been defined and supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The proposal matches Canadian expertise with Mexican needs in the areas of disabilities, HIV/AIDS, and women and children.
- There is an increasingly close relationship between the Canadian and Mexican electoral commissions. As a result of the July 1997 mid-term elections in Mexico, there are new opportunities for Canada to build links with Mexico, through, for example, parliamentary exchanges.

### **Trade and Investment**

- Mexico is Canada's largest trading partner in Latin America. From 1994 through 1996, two-way trade grew by 30 per cent, reaching \$7.3 billion. Over the same period, Canadian exports rose by 66 per cent to reach \$1.25 billion.
- Canada's access to the Mexican market has increased considerably since Jan. 1, 1994, when NAFTA came into force. Canadian firms now have increasingly barrier-free access to a market of over 90 million consumers and are expanding sales in the automotive, financial services, trucking, energy and fisheries sectors.
- Manufactured products now account for well over half of Canadian merchandise exports to Mexico. Canadian telecommunications, plastics, automotive, machine-tooling and metalworking companies have made significant inroads into the Mexican market. There are important