

Canada-Republic of Costa Rica Relations

Bilateral Relations

- Canada established diplomatic relations with Costa Rica in March 1961. The two countries share similar values on human rights, the environment and the peaceful settlement of disputes. They co-operate closely in both bilateral and multilateral organizations.
- In June 1995, Canada forgave \$11.3 million of aid-related debt in exchange for Costa Rica's agreement to spend that amount on environmental projects.
- Costa Rica's President visited Ottawa in April 1994 and met with Canada's Prime Minister and its Foreign Affairs Minister. In January 1995, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Christine Stewart, Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, visited Costa Rica as part of a visit to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Trade and Investment

- In 1995, two-way trade between Canada and Costa Rica stood at \$207.8 million. Major Canadian exports to Costa Rica, totalling \$44.7 million, consisted of wheat and flour, fertilizers, plastics, railway ties and paper products. Major Canadian imports from Costa Rica, totalling \$163.1 million, were bananas and other fresh fruit, coffee, gold and clothing.
- Over the past three years, two-way trade grew by 28 per cent in value and quantity, largely due to an increase in Canadian imports, mainly of coffee, but also of fruit, nuts and textiles.
- Export opportunities for Canadian firms lie in the following sectors: telecommunications, energy, transportation, mining, tourism, services and infrastructure projects.

Development Assistance Co-operation

- Canada's development assistance in Costa Rica began in the mid-1970s and supports economic modernization and environmental sustainability. Bilateral assistance has focused on low-cost housing, protection of the environment and social development.
- World Wildlife Fund Canada, in collaboration with Costa Rica's Ministry of Environment and Energy, is undertaking the second phase of a bilateral project to promote environmental conservation and sustainable socio-economic development in the Arenal Conservation Area. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will