

## BELGIUM AT A GLANCE

### *Belgium-Canada Relations:*

- Canada and **Belgium** enjoy close relations owing to factors such as common values and a shared commitment to promote multilateralism in the area of foreign policy.
- Together with Luxembourg, **Belgium** is Canada's fourth-largest European investor after the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. **Belgium** alone is Canada's 9<sup>th</sup> largest source of FDI, with direct investments totalling C\$3.8 billion. Canadians have C\$4.2 billion in investments in **Belgium**.
- Canadian exports to **Belgium**, our ninth-largest trading partner, exceeded C\$1.8 billion in 2003, and imports to Canada from **Belgium** totalled close to C\$1.2 billion.
- Our two countries are working closely together to implement the Kimberley Process, aimed at stopping the flow of conflict diamonds.
- Canada and **Belgium** are working together to promote youth exchanges. In the area of culture, the two countries collaborate on numerous co-productions, particularly in the film industry.
- Our respective experiences in the areas of federalism, bilingualism and governance generate exchanges between our two countries.
- Canada and **Belgium** are working together within La Francophonie and in the area of cultural diversity.

### *Canada, Belgium and the European Union:*

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

- Canada and **Belgium** enjoy particularly close relations when it comes to issues involving Canada-European Union relations, including anti-personnel mines, small arms, conflict financing, human security, war-affected children and the situation in central Africa.
- Canada is a country of immigration. Integrating immigrants is a topic of keen interest in Europe and in **Belgium** specifically, an area where we can compare our respective experiences and learn from each other.
- 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. We believe that **Belgium** and Canada will benefit from this agreement.

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