

residents of Northern Ireland. Canada has also contributed more than \$5 million to the International Fund for Ireland for projects to support co-operation among communities.

- In June 1997, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Prime Minister Tony Blair issued a joint declaration that re-affirmed the strengths of the relationship between that two countries. The prime ministers have reviewed progress under that declaration at subsequent meetings, including during Prime Minister Chrétien's visit to London in May 1998; Prime Minister Blair's visit to Ottawa in February 2001; the G8 Summit in Kananaskis in June 2002; the NATO Summit in Prague in November 2002; the G8 Summit in Evian in June 2003.
- Tourism plays an important role in keeping the two countries connected. About 800,000 U.K. residents visit Canada every year, making the United Kingdom Canada's second largest source of tourists.
- Two-way youth exchanges are on the rise thanks to programs like the Young Workers Exchange Program, the Student Work Abroad Program and co-op education programs. These initiatives provide thousands of youth with the opportunity to establish ties that will benefit both countries in the future.
- Cultural co-operation is an important vehicle for strengthening ties and understanding. The United Kingdom is Canada's most important cultural export market in Europe and second only to the United States overall. Canadian artists and cultural industries are making significant inroads in Britain, which is a dominant and influential force in the book, music, film and design industries. For example, half the finalists for the 2002 Man Booker Prize for Fiction were Canadians, including the winner, Yann Martel for his novel *Life of Pi*.
- In 2000, the value of Canadian cultural exports to the United Kingdom amounted to \$39 million. Between 1996 and 2000, the value of Canada's cultural exports to the United Kingdom increased by 23.8 per cent. In 2000, the United Kingdom alone accounted for 42 per cent of Canadian exports to the Western European cultural market. Film and television are especially important. In 1999-2000, the United Kingdom was Canada's second most active film and television co-production partner in Europe.

Trade and investment

- The United Kingdom is Canada's primary trading partner among European countries. It ranks second in the world, after the United States, as a destination for Canadian direct investment abroad, a source of tourists to