

## Canada–Mexico Relations

- Canada and Mexico have developed a closer relationship over the past decade due in part to the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which led to an almost sixfold increase in bilateral trade and investment. The relationship has expanded over the past few years particularly because of greater co-operation on governance and in hemispheric and foreign affairs.
- Diplomatic relations were established between Canada and Mexico in 1944. Canada maintains an embassy in Mexico City; consulates in Monterrey and Guadalajara; and honorary consuls in Acapulco, Cancún, Mazatlán, Oaxaca, Puerto Vallarta, Tijuana and San José del Cabo. Mexico has an embassy in Ottawa; consulates general in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver; and honorary consuls in Calgary, Quebec City, Dartmouth, St. John's and Regina.
- Canada and Mexico co-operate increasingly at multilateral forums, including the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations (UN), Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the Summit of the Americas process in a broad range of areas that include trade facilitation, landmines, and illicit drug trafficking.
- Frequent contact between the two governments is maintained at the highest level. Since Mexico's President Vicente Fox took office in December 2000, he and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien have met five times. The two leaders conferred most recently in Mexico in October 2002 at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Los Cabos. They also met in Mexico in March 2002 at the UN International Conference on Financing For Development.
- During President Fox's visit to Canada in April 2001, the two leaders issued a joint statement outlining a new agenda for relations: promoting democracy and good government; strengthening civil society; protecting the environment; defending human rights; and building peace and prosperity within the hemisphere and around the world.
- In the past two years, significant co-operation has been achieved in the area of good governance. For one, Canadian and Mexican senior officials have shared experiences on efforts to increase accountability and transparency. More recently, they started work on a program to modernize Mexico's highly centralized federal system. In January 2003, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding for co-operation on matters relating to federalism. The two countries are also working on ways