

in the United States (ACSUS) is a multi-disciplinary association of scholars, professionals, and institutions dedicated to improving the understanding of Canada in the United States.

II STRENGTHENING CANADA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS WITH MEXICO

Promoting mutual economic growth and prosperity. A 1998 Team Canada mission led by the Prime Minister to Mexico City resulted in the highest number of business deals ever signed on a Team Canada mission at that time. In 2001, over 15 trade missions went to Mexico, and 20 additional ones went in 2002. In 2000, Export Development Canada (EDC) opened an office in Mexico City, co-located in the Canadian Embassy, and in 2002 expanded its services to Monterrey. In 2001, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Natural Resources each led business missions to Mexico. More than 60 Canadian business and government representatives participated in the 2002 Canada Trade Mission to Mexico led by the Minister for International Trade. Through Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, 10,739 temporary Mexican workers came to Canada in 2002; Mexico supplies over 50% of total recruitment of Canada's foreign temporary farm workers.

Expanding cooperation on governance issues in support of Mexico's strong commitment to democracy, human rights and good governance. Since the election of President Fox, senior Canadian officials have exchanged experiences with Mexican counterparts on important cross-cutting themes such as government coordination, federalism, strategic planning, and budget planning. With assistance from the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS), the Mexican government recently passed legislation creating an Access to Information Law. With the Mexican Ministry of Labour, Canada has an ongoing cooperative program which, *inter alia*, seeks to address occupational health and safety administration. Independent institutions including our respective Human Rights Commissions, and Elections Canada and the Mexican Federal Electoral Institute also have strong relationships. Canada and Mexico recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on e-government to assist Mexican efforts to promote transparency. Recent visits of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister to Mexico reaffirmed our commitment to expand cooperation in this important area.

Strengthening mutual knowledge and understanding of each other's identity and values. The Government continues to support cultural and academic exchanges between our countries, such as the 2002 Canada-Mexico cultural consultations in Mexico City, and the 2002 visit of a Mexican Ministry of Education team to Canada to examine Canadian best practices in the education field. Projects between Canadian and Mexican universities help modernize education through the development of content and delivery

