

Canada–West Bank and Gaza Relations

- Canada's relations with the Palestinian Authority are relatively recent. The Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and the PLO in 1993 created a Palestinian Authority to administer areas of the West Bank and Gaza under Palestinian control. The Palestinian Authority's full or partial jurisdiction now covers all major Palestinian population centres in the West Bank and Gaza, except East Jerusalem. Relations have been greatly enhanced by the prominent role Canada plays in the Mideast peace process.
- The Oslo Interim Peace Agreements do not allow the Palestinian Authority to establish diplomatic relations with foreign states. The Palestinian General Delegation, an office of the PLO which opened in Ottawa in 1995, represents Palestinian interests in Canada.
- In February 1999, Canada's Minister for International Trade officially opened Canada's representative office in Ramallah. In accordance with the Oslo Accords, the office is responsible for delivering economic and development assistance to the Palestinians.
- Recent visits by Canadian ministers to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza include those of the Foreign Affairs Minister in 1997, the Intergovernmental Affairs Minister and the Minister for International Co-operation in 1998, as well as a business mission led by the Minister for International Trade in February 1999.
- In 1998, the Speaker of the Palestinian legislative council and a delegation of five council members visited Canada, followed by the Palestinian Minister of Housing later that year. The Palestinian Minister for Planning and International Co-operation and the PLO Executive Committee's member responsible for Jerusalem visited Canada in March 2000.
- Canada contributes to the Mideast peace process as chair of the Refugee Working Group, as a member of the steering group overseeing the working groups, and as a member of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, which co-ordinates assistance to the Palestinian Authority.
- Canada's efforts to assist Palestinian refugees and promote dialogue between the affected parties underscores its determination to find a durable solution to the refugee problem. Canada also participates in four other multilateral working groups: regional economic development, the environment, water resources, and arms control and regional security.
- The Palestinian community in Canada numbers about 35,000.