

MALTA AT A GLANCE

Malta-Canada Relations:

- The second largest Maltese diaspora can be found in Canada, concentrated in Toronto. At approximately 50,000, it is equivalent to 13% of the population of Malta.
- Canada and Malta work closely through their shared membership in the Commonwealth, OSCE, and the UN.
- Two-way trade between Canada and Malta totalled CAD\$39.3 million in 2003.
- Canadian fighter pilot ace George "Buzz" Beurling scored most of his victories while stationed with RAF 249 Squadron in Malta during the Second World War. His heroic exploits first brought Malta to the attention of many Canadians.
- In June 2002, Secretary of State for Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East, Gar Knutson, led a successful business delegation to Malta.
- The Royal Canadian Navy has made regular ship visits in recent years.

Canada, Malta and the European Union:

- Canada and Malta will both benefit from the innovative Canada-EU Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA) that seeks to stimulate trade and investment, trade facilitation, and sustainable development.
- Canada and Malta will work together on EU issues of common interest identified in the Canada-EU Partnership Agenda, including people-to-people links, global governance, promotion of prosperity, and the fight against terrorism.
- Canada and Malta share a common issues such as the management of asylum seekers, immigration, and cultural diversity.
- The mechanisms in the EU available to Malta and Canada will strengthen the capacity of both states to promote their common interests in the UN, OSCE, and the Commonwealth, particularly with Malta hosting the Heads of Government Meeting in 2005.

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