

SWEDEN AT A GLANCE

Sweden-Canada Relations:

- Significant business links: two-way trade of \$ 2.3 billion (2003); 11th largest foreign direct investor in Canada (\$3.1 billion 2002), with the presence of some 200 Swedish firms in Canada.
- Significant and growing cooperation in Science and Technology: including ICT, biotechnology and the environment; ongoing R&D collaboration.
- Strong people-to-people links: 282,760 Canadians claim Swedish heritage (Census 2001), with the largest concentration in western Canada (B.C. and Alberta); both countries share a passion for hockey (and Swedes captain 3 of Canada's 6 NHL teams)!
- In February 2003, Swedish Prime Minister Persson conducted an official visit to Canada.
- Like-minded multilateral partners: UN, peacekeeping, SHIRBRIG, OSCE, WTO, human rights, conflict prevention and disarmament, cultural diversity, Global Partnership Program.
- Shared interests in the North: Arctic Council, University of the Arctic, EU North Dimension Program of Action, indigenous ties.
- "Best Practices": growing dialogue and cooperation on health care reform, social insurance, immigration & integration, sustainable cities, e-government, development assistance.

Canada, Sweden and the European Union:

- **International Security & Effective Multilateralism:** Sweden is a valued partner in promoting UN reform, Responsibility to Protect, human rights, non-proliferation and disarmament, and for our work on WMD (Blix Commission; Global Partnership), peacekeeping, rapid reaction, democracy assistance.
- **Global Economic Prosperity:** Sweden supports the principles outlined in the TIEA framework, and supports Canada in this initiative. Sweden is a world leader in R&D spending. Mutual benefits of cooperating on: science and technology, innovation, IT, bio-and environmental technologies, health and the WTO (Doha).
- **Justice and Home Affairs:** Within the EU, Sweden accepts the greatest number of refugees per capita. Canada is looked to for ideas on immigration/integration and migration issues.
- **Global and Regional Challenges:** Sweden has a unique perspective and role in the Nordic and Baltic regions and in the North. Sweden spearheaded the EU's Northern Dimension Policy, and collaborates with Canada in the Arctic Council. Sweden's environmental stewardship brings scope for increased cooperation, especially on climate change, trans-boundary pollution, forests and the North. A valued partner on sustainable development. Sweden will be home to the EU's Infectious Disease Control Center.
- **People-To-People:** Our youth are our future. Let's continue to work together to increase two-way youth and academic exchanges and programs. Parliamentary ties can be strengthened, as can our whole-of-government interaction between the counterpart ministries of our governments.