

over \$443 million. Main Canadian exports include wheat, telecommunications equipment, newsprint and other paper products, potash, processed foods, fruits and vegetables and plastics. Canadian imports include fruits and vegetables, clothing, sugar, electronic components, tobacco and coffee.

### **CARICOM**

At the Canada-CARICOM Summit in Jamaica on January 19, 2001, Prime Minister Chrétien and the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) countries agreed to initiate discussions toward bilateral free trade. Canadian and CARICOM representatives held a preliminary meeting in March 2001 in order to develop a framework agreement that will constitute the basis for free trade negotiations. Concurrently, domestic consultations will be launched in order to obtain advice and views on priorities, objectives and concerns with respect to this initiative. Two-way trade between Canada and CARICOM is significant, amounting to \$938 million in 2000. In 1999, Canadian investments in the region total close to \$25 billion. Moreover, some \$200 million in consulting and engineering contracts in the Caribbean are won by Canadian firms annually. Leading Canadian exports to the region include fisheries and agri-food products, telecommunications equipment, computers, paper including newsprint, furniture and pharmaceuticals, while our imports are led by gold, alumina/bauxite, fisheries and agri-food products, mineral fuels, petroleum oils, steel rods and industrial chemicals.

### **Market Access Results in 2000**

- Reached an agreement with Costa Rica on the sanitary requirements for Canadian meat.

### **Canada's Market Access Priorities for 2001**

- conclude free trade agreements with Costa Rica;
- advance FTA negotiations with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua;
- advance discussions with CARICOM on a framework for FTA negotiations;
- pursue discussions with Dominican Republic on barriers to the import of Canadian wood products;
- work with Guatemalan counterparts to reach agreement on the sanitary requirements for Canadian meat imports; and
- continue to press Panama for the removal of restrictive import permit requirements, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and other trade barriers adversely affecting Canadian exports of agri-food products.