

Reopening of Canada House

- On May 13, 1998, the Queen and Canada's Prime Minister will reopen Canada House after a \$15.5 million renovation. King George V, the Queen's grandfather, presided over the original opening of Canada House in 1925.
- Canada House, on the west side of Trafalgar Square in London, has been Canada's focal point in Britain for over seven decades. It has been a diplomatic, public affairs and academic centre, and was a military headquarters during the Second World War. Most notably, Canada House has been the home for the Canadian High Commission's cultural program, including exhibitions, concerts, and film screenings.
- With its reopening, Canada House will highlight Canada's modern image as it celebrates innovation in science and technology. It will continue to profile Canada as a diverse, richly multicultural country with many visual, literary and performing artists. Canada House will enhance opportunities to promote trade and investment activity between Canada and Britain and draw attention to Canada's role on the international stage.
- Canada House will be the location for literary readings, performing arts events and showings of Canadian films. It will also host academic seminars on Canadian subjects and exhibit Canadian export products.
- In addition to the public events, several other programs will be delivered from Canada House: academic and cultural relations, passport and consular services, veterans affairs, and tourism.
- The Canadian and British prime ministers issued the Joint Declaration in June 1997 which underlined the historic and traditional ties between Canada and Britain. This declaration called for modernizing the relationship in the areas of new technologies and priorities, including youth and employability. The reopening of Canada House is part of this ongoing activity.
- The work of refurbishing and restoring Canada House began in February 1997. The restoration includes a dome, skylight, panelling, marble floors, pillars, a floor-to-ceiling ornamental screen and a majestic main door. Considerable work was also done on the exterior stonework.