

## **Canada–Israel Relations**

- Canada and Israel enjoy a friendly and mature relationship. Canada has supported Israel since its creation in 1948 and is committed to Israel's well-being as an independent Mideast state and to its participation and acceptance in international organizations. Both countries are members of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.
- In 1999, Canada's ministers of Defence, Industry, and International Trade visited Israel. The ministers of Intergovernmental Affairs and International Co-operation visited the country in 1998. The Foreign Affairs Minister visited in 1997. Recent Israeli visits to Canada include those of the Regional Co-operation Minister in March 2000, the Justice Minister in 1999, and the ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry in 1997.
- Canada and Israel co-operate in many areas of mutual interest and in 1999 signed a mutual legal assistance treaty and a memorandum of understanding on cultural, academic and sports relations.
- Canada's relationship with Israel is based on shared values and bonds of friendship and culture. The Canadian Jewish community is estimated at about 350,000; while about 15,000 to 20,000 Canadians live in Israel.

## **Peace and Security**

- Canada actively supports the Mideast peace process, in particular, the interim agreements reached by Israel and the PLO on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as the Wye River Accord, Sharm Al-Sheikh Agreement, and the recent resumption of Israel–Syria peace talks. Canada has repeatedly called on the parties to honour existing agreements and to settle all outstanding issues. Canada's goal is a just, lasting and comprehensive peace agreement based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Through its role as chair of the Refugee Working Group and through multilateral negotiations, Canada has encouraged other countries to normalize relations with Israel.
- Israel and Canada along with Norway have jointly supported demining efforts in Jordan and community rehabilitation for landmine victims in Guatemala.
- Canada is active in three missions relating to Israel. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, with 190 Canadian Forces personnel, supervises the Golan Heights ceasefire between Israel and Syria. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization Mission, with