

Canada–Saudi Arabia Relations

- Canada and Saudi Arabia enjoy a close relationship and share membership in the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund. They established diplomatic ties in 1973. The following year, the Canadian mission opened in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah and moved to the capital, Riyadh, in 1985. Canada maintains a consulate, staffed by an honorary consul, in Jeddah. Saudi Arabia opened its embassy in Ottawa in 1976. A new and larger facility is currently under construction.
- High-level visits between the two countries continue at a brisk pace. In February 1999, Canada's International Trade Minister led a business development mission to Saudi Arabia. The following month, his Saudi counterpart visited Canada in the context of Saudi Arabia's bid to join the World Trade Organization. In June 1999, the Saudi Minister of Higher Education headed a delegation of 20 senior university officials on a cross-Canada tour.

Peace and Security

- Saudi Arabia is an important player in the Mideast peace process. Although not directly involved in bilateral negotiations or in multilateral activities, it is a member, with Canada, of the steering group of the multilateral peace process. Saudi Arabia also participates in five multilateral working groups, including the Refugee Working Group, which Canada chairs. Canada communicates openly with Saudi Arabia on these issues and both countries provide significant support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.
- During the 1990–91 Gulf War, the support and participation of the Gulf Cooperation Council, of which Saudi Arabia is a member, proved to be critical to the success of the coalition forces fighting in Kuwait and Iraq. During the conflict, Canada and Saudi Arabia established a Canadian field hospital at Jubail, in northeastern Saudi Arabia.

Trade and Investment

- Saudi Arabia consistently rates among Canada's top five export markets in the Middle East and North Africa region.
- The excellent commercial relationship enjoyed by both countries has been supported significantly by the work of the Joint Economic Commission. Established in 1976 to exchange information and views on expanding economic and commercial relations, the commission met for the ninth time