



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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OFFICIAL VISIT TO TUNISIA AND ALGERIA BY THE
MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister for External Relations, today announced his intention to make an official visit to Tunisia from April 22 to 25 and to Algeria from April 25 to 30, 1984.

Tunisia is Canada's oldest partner in North Africa. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1957. In the initial phase of its development, Tunisia was one of the main recipients of Canadian aid in Africa. The main project was the Bourguiba Dam at Sidi Saad. Canada provided \$55 million of the total cost of \$200 million. Other Canadian projects have emphasised medical training and rural development.

Several ministerial visits over the years have contributed to strengthening and to intensifying Canada-Tunisian relations, as have the periodic meetings of the Bilateral Commission. The first meeting of this Commission was held in Tunis in 1969 under the chairmanship of Mr. Pepin, who was Minister Industry, Trade and Commerce at the time.

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