

## **Canada–Jamaica Relations**

- Canada and Jamaica maintain close diplomatic ties. Canada opened a high commission in Kingston in 1962, and the same year Jamaica opened a high commission in Ottawa. Both are members of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Organization of American States.
- Political contact between the two countries is frequent. The Jamaican Prime Minister visited Canada in June 1999. The Canadian Prime Minister met with Caribbean leaders, including the Jamaican Prime Minister, at the November 1999 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in South Africa. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister and the Speaker of the House of Commons both visited Jamaica early in 1999.
- Relations between the two governments include hemispheric and international co-operation, trade and investment links, official development assistance and tourism. There are also ties through the large Jamaican community in Canada.
- Jamaica has supported Canada's political role in the hemisphere, particularly its activities in Haiti and its policy on Cuba. Jamaica signed and ratified the convention banning landmines and supported Canada's successful bid for a seat on the UN Security Council. Canada supported Jamaica's successful bid for a UN Security Council seat in 2000–01.

### **Trade and investment**

- Jamaica is one of the larger and more diversified economies of the Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean. Leading sectors are mining, tourism, agriculture and light export manufacturing.
- There are strong trade ties between Canada and Jamaica. Two-way trade totalled \$298 million in 1999. Canadian merchandise exports of \$97 million (excluding services and goods shipped through the United States) included fish and seafood, newsprint and paper, telephone apparatus and medicine. Jamaican exports to Canada, valued at \$201 million in 1999, were primarily bauxite and alumina, rum, fruit, vegetables, and clothing.
- Canadian investment in Jamaica is about \$602 million and is concentrated in the mining and financial sectors.