

Relations between Canada and Luxembourg

Canada and Luxembourg established diplomatic relations in 1945. The warm ties between the two countries derive in part from relationships formed in the wake of two world wars, and the fact that Grand Duke Jean lived in Canada during the last war and studied at Laval University in Quebec City.

In the area of foreign policy, Canada and Luxembourg have a number of common concerns: support for the UN, participation in NATO, and the search for security and reduced tensions. Luxembourg is a member of the European Economic Community, and a valued partner in Canada's efforts to establish ever closer economic and cultural ties with Western Europe. Another characteristic the two countries have in common is bilingualism: French is Luxembourg's official language, and German is also widely spoken. Both countries take part in the activities of la francophonie, both being members of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. The Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians, of which Canada is a member, was established as the result of efforts initiated by Luxembourg.

Trade between the two countries is currently running at \$9,000,000 worth of Canadian exports and \$3,000,000 worth of imports from Luxembourg annually.

Mr. Thorn's visit continues a series of exchanges of distinguished visitors between the two countries. In 1967, Canada had the pleasure of welcoming one of Mr. Thorn's predecessors as Foreign Minister, Mr. Pierre Grégoire. The Governor General and Mrs. Michener, accompanied by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, made an official visit to Luxembourg in April 1971.