

# Canada and France

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France, an industrialized Western European country, is a permanent member of the UN Security Council as well as one of the founders and a mainstay of the European Community. It has a parliamentary democracy with a presidential regime.

Relations between Canada and France, which date back to the sixteenth century, were established officially in 1882, when Hector Fabre, appointed General Agent of the Province of Quebec in Paris in February 1882, became Commissioner General to Canada four months later. In September 1944, Canada named Georges P. Vanier its first Ambassador to France.

France now maintains an embassy in Ottawa and consulates-general in Moncton, Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. As well, France has many honorary consuls in the various regions of Canada.

The Canadian Embassy in France is located in Paris. Canada also has a consulate in Lyon and honorary consuls in Strasbourg and Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon. Quebec has a general delegation and Ontario, a delegation called Ontario House, in Paris.

## POLITICAL RELATIONS

Political relations between Canada and France gained an impetus in the 1960s. Since that time, high-level exchanges between the two countries have continued to increase, with numerous federal and provincial politicians visiting France and French politicians coming to Canada. The first two Francophone summits in Paris (1986) and Quebec City (1987) also helped solidify relations and facilitate increased bilateral relations in all areas, especially economics and trade. Both countries have shown a political desire for greater interchange. This has been advanced through joint cultural, economic and

scientific commissions and other co-operative efforts. Joint participation in the UN, NATO, the OECD, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the economic summits, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also played a role in cementing the ties between the two nations.

## ECONOMIC RELATIONS

### Trade

Canada wishes to establish special arrangements with France, focused mainly on achieving the joint objectives of broader economic, trade and technological relations between the two countries. In 1987, bilateral trade between Canada and France totalled about \$2.5 billion; \$1.5 billion of this represented French sales to Canada and the remaining \$1 billion comprised Canadian exports to France. Canada stands 20th among suppliers to France, while France ranks 8th among suppliers to Canada.

The main Canadian exports to France are wood pulp and similar pulp, fresh and frozen fish, iron ore and concentrates, lumber, inorganic chemicals, aircraft engines and parts, office machinery and equipment, and telecommunications equipment. The main French exports to Canada are aircraft, automobiles, wines and spirits, cheese, perfumes, tires, books and printed matter, steel bars and spikes, organic chemicals, and specialized industrial machinery.

Over the past two years, trade with France in high-technology, particularly aeronautical, products has increased. Canada has already purchased nearly 100 aircraft from the European Airbus consortium and will sell fuselage parts for this same aircraft to Airbus. All this trade will amount to several billion dollars.

## Investment

During the 1980s each country expanded its investment base in the other. Canadian investment in France has increased considerably since 1982. According to the most recent statistics (1986), total Canadian investment in France is worth \$460 million, with Cascades, Northern Telecom, McCain, Alcan, Seagram's and Polysar leading the way. French investment in Canada totals \$2 billion. More than 300 French companies are established throughout Canada. The main ones are Michelin in Nova Scotia, Péchiney in Quebec, Ciments Lafarge in Ontario, Cogema in Saskatchewan and CFP-Total in British Columbia.

## Science and Technology

Research and development exchanges are also important, and the two countries are together focusing on the fields of space, biotechnology and oceans. They are also exploring co-operative ventures in the technology of cold regions, telecommunications, advanced materials, environment and transportation. For a number of years there has been a bilateral researcher exchange program, which has supported joint efforts, mainly at the university level.

French and Canadian companies conduct industrial research together through what are called EUREKA projects. As well, in 1986, the Canadian government created the Technology Opportunities in Europe Program (TOEP), a move that was welcomed by France. Canada has also established the Technology Assistance Program (TAP), which aims to further international co-operation in technology transfer. Other important programs are the Industrial

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