

REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND CANADA RELATIONS

Bilateral relations are excellent and have been enriched by Argentina's new attitude of cooperation with the industrialised world. Since 1990, the scope of bilateral relations has been steadily growing. A Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA) entered into force April 29, 1993. This agreement aims at promoting and protecting Canadian and Argentine investments. Air Services and Double Taxation Agreements have been signed (see LIST OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS). Canada is also very active in the cultural scene, supporting a network of six Canadian studies centres, and a scholarship/academic exchange program. This diversified relationship serves as the basis for further expansion of our trade relations. Although the economic-trade relation between the Republic of Argentina and Canada finds itself at a modest level, it has a significant potential for further development.

Our bilateral relationship has been reinforced by several high-level visits. In 1991, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Guido Di Tella, visited Canada. Two years later, there was a succession of important visits: in January, the Argentine Economy Minister, Domingo Cavallo, visited Canada; the April visit to Argentina of a Canadian trade delegation headed by the former Minister for International Trade, Michael Wilson; and two September visits to Argentina by the Deputy Minister for International Trade, Allen Kilpatrick and the Québec Minister for International Affairs, John Ciaccia. 1994 started in the same vein with a bilateral meeting between the Canadian Minister for International Trade, Roy MacLaren, and the Argentine Economy Minister, Dr. Cavallo, last January at the Davos Symposium.

TRADE RELATIONS

In comparison to their respective major trading partners, bilateral trade between Argentina and Canada is modest. Two-way trade between Canada and Argentina was \$251 million in 1993.

Throughout the 1980's, Canadian exports to Argentina maintained a trend of deceleration in growth, then began a process of recovery in 1990, with significant increases during the last two years. In 1993, our two-way trade increased by 18% over 1992, largely due to a substantial growth in Canadian exports.