

## Canada–CARICOM Relations

- The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) was established in 1973 to promote greater unity among countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Since then, membership has grown to include non-Commonwealth countries. CARICOM leads and co-ordinates political and economic initiatives. A major objective is to integrate members in a single market and economy by 2001. The CARICOM Secretariat is in Guyana.
- Current CARICOM members are Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat (a U.K. territory), St. Kitts–Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Haiti's membership is close to being ratified.
- The sixth Canada–CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting takes place in Jamaica on Sept. 28 and 29, 2000.
- Canada's close relationship with CARICOM countries is based on shared values, common traditions and language, trade and investment links, and exchanges through immigration, tourism and education. The Caribbean community supports many Canadian initiatives and candidacies at international organizations.
- Since most CARICOM members are also part of the Commonwealth, Canada's Prime Minister traditionally speaks with each of their leaders during Commonwealth heads of government meetings. The most recent meeting took place in Durban, South Africa, in November 1999.
- Canadian ministers also meet regularly with their CARICOM counterparts, either individually or in a group. Canada's Foreign Minister met with CARICOM foreign ministers in Trinidad in January 2000 and at the Organization of American States General Assembly in Windsor, Ontario, in June 2000. Canada's Trade Minister met with CARICOM trade ministers in Toronto in November 1999 while chairing the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Trade Ministers' Meeting. Ministerial visits to and from the Caribbean are frequent.
- The Joint Trade and Economic Committee brings together senior officials for discussions on trade, economic, political and development issues. The committee has met nine times since it was established in 1979, most recently in Guyana in 1998.