

## **Canada-Belize Relations**

### **Bilateral Relations**

- Canada established diplomatic relations with Belize, formerly British Honduras, in November 1972. Diplomatic recognition of an independent Belize was conferred in September 1981. Relations between the two countries have been reinforced by Belize's strong identification with and active participation in the Commonwealth and the Caribbean Community, as well as its ongoing involvement in Central American issues.
- Recent high-level meetings involving Belize include the Canada-Caribbean Community joint trade and economic meeting, which took place in Georgetown, Guyana, in October 1995, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, on Nov. 9, 1995, and the Prime Minister's meetings with the CARICOM leaders in Grenada in March 1996.

### **Trade and Investment**

- Belize benefits from the CARIBCAN initiative, a one-way preferential trade agreement between Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean, introduced in 1986.
- In 1995, two-way trade between Canada and Belize stood at \$15.9 million (a drop of \$6.9 million). Canadian exports to Belize, totalling \$4.2 million, consisted of petroleum and bituminous oils, malt, telephone equipment and lard. Major Canadian imports from Belize, totalling \$11.7 million, were raw cane sugar, cane molasses, lobster and other sea crustaceans and orange juice.
- There are opportunities for Canadian export business in telecommunications and agri-food products.

### **Development Assistance Co-operation**

- Belize benefits from Caribbean-wide projects of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). For example, the CARICOM Regional Fisheries Resources Assessment and Management Project, which benefits 12 participating members of the Caribbean Community, is headquartered in Belize City. The program's budget includes \$15.7 million from CIDA.