

investment in the oil and gas sector; and several educational projects (primary and secondary levels, technical institutions and a memorandum of understanding signed in October 2003 for the creation of a Canadian university). The sectors accounting for the largest part of the rise in exports in 2003 were cereals (especially wheat), paper products and some fossil fuels (coal).

Egypt ranks as Canada's 65th largest source of imports. Canada's imports from Egypt reached \$116 million in 2003, up 100% compared with 2002. The sectors that accounted for most of the rise in 2003 were crude oil and fertilizers. Canadian imports from Egypt include mineral fuels, oils, fertilizers, knit apparel, floor coverings, cottons and yarn. In 2002, Canadian direct investment in Egypt, which is mainly in the oil and gas sector, was \$42 million.

Market Access Results in 2003

- Egypt authorized the import of canola.
- The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) received a licence to operate a Canadian primary and secondary school.

Canada's Market Access Priorities for 2004

- Secure access for exports of halal beef.
- Secure a licence to operate a Canadian technical school (University and College of Cape Breton).
- Secure a licence to operate a Canadian university (Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada).
- Secure a licence to operate a Petroleum Institute (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology).
- Secure authorization to process canola oil in Egypt.

IMPROVING ACCESS FOR TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

Halal Beef

Meetings on December 3, 2003, with the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) resulted in an agreement whereby the Egyptian government will accept the current halal slaughtering certificate for all veal and beef products, subject to authentication by the Egyptian embassy in Ottawa and/or the Egyptian consulate in Montreal.

MALR officials must certify individual halal slaughtering houses before exports of offal (liver, kidneys, etc.) can commence.

Educational Services

A Canadian Technical School

A licence to operate a Canadian technical school is expected from the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education during the first half of 2004. The Canadian College of Advanced Technology (CCAT) will be the Egyptian branch of the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB), located in Nova Scotia, Canada. This program will offer an accredited one-year certificate, which can lead to a three-year Cooperative Education Diploma Program, with three four-month job placements. There will also be an opportunity for CCAT diploma graduates to attain a Bachelor of Technology accredited by UCCB, either from CCAT in Egypt, or by attending UCCB for a full calendar year in Canada.

Al Ahrum Canadian University

The Al Ahrum Canadian University (ACU) project is a joint effort between Al Ahrum Establishment (Al Ahrum is the largest Arabic daily newspaper in the Middle East in distribution) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada to establish the first Canadian university in the Middle East. ACU will be completed over a five-year period and will consist of 12 faculties, each one paired with a corresponding Canadian university. A permanent campus has already been acquired on the edge of Cairo (over 40 hectares), which will be the main campus for all faculties. The total cost of the project is expected to exceed \$180 million. The university plans to start operating the first three faculties (Journalism with the Université du Québec à Montréal, Computer Science with École Polytechnique de Montréal and Business with McMaster University) in September 2004. Al Ahrum presented the necessary documents for the establishment of the university on January 26, 2004.

Gas Pipeline Training Institute

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum, signed an agreement in 2002 to develop a gas pipeline training institute to enhance current skills, introduce a modern curriculum and transfer new technologies to the Egyptian petroleum