

totalling \$4.4 billion in 1998, while Canadian imports from the U.K. decreased slightly from \$6.4 billion in 1997 to \$6.2 billion in 1998.

- Canada is Northern Ireland's sixth largest export market. Northern Ireland sales to Canada totalled \$371 million in 1998, decreasing slightly from the level of \$404 million reached in 1997. Engineering sector goods and services accounted for 96 per cent of Northern Ireland's total exports to Canada in 1998. Other imports from Northern Ireland included textiles, clothing, leather, food, and beverages.
- The United Kingdom is Canada's second most important source of foreign investment. With 1998 investments of \$17.7 billion, the U.K. accounts for 8.2 per cent of the total foreign direct investment in Canada. Similarly, the United Kingdom is the second largest destination for Canadian foreign direct investment. Canadian direct investment in the United Kingdom at the end of 1998 stood at \$22.7 billion, ranking Canada eighth as a source of investment. More than 300 Canadian firms are established in the U.K.
- About 650 U.K. companies with more than 1,200 subsidiaries are based in Canada. These companies employ some 70,000 people in more than 20 different industries and have annual sales exceeding \$14.8 billion.

### **Canada's Contribution to the Peace Process in Northern Ireland**

- The peace process in Northern Ireland stems from the joint determination of the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in 1991 to bring peace through a comprehensive political settlement. Key milestones include the two governments' joint declaration on Northern Ireland in 1993, which set out a framework for the peace process, and their 1995 communiqué launching a twin-track process of negotiations and of collecting and destroying arms.
- The complexity of the arms issue led in 1995 to the creation of the International Body, which is to provide an independent assessment. Former United States senator George Mitchell chaired the group and the two other members were General John de Chastelain of Canada and Finland's former prime minister, Harri Holkeri. In January 1996, the International Body reported on procedures for arms removal and set out the Mitchell Principles of non-violence and strict adherence to democratic means that would underpin future negotiations.
- Having gained the confidence of the Irish and U.K. governments and, even more important, of Northern Ireland's political parties, the members of the International Body were entrusted with chairing broader peace negotiations. Multi-party talks began in late 1996 and produced the Good Friday Agreement of April 10, 1998, which provides a road map for