

Relations Between Canada and Bosnia-Herzegovina

- Canada recognized Bosnia-Herzegovina on April 8, 1992, after it had declared independence from Yugoslavia in March. Diplomatic relations between Canada and Bosnia-Herzegovina were established on Dec. 15, 1995, following the signing of a peace agreement in Dayton, Ohio. The agreement established a unified state consisting of two entities: the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Serb Republic.
- The Canadian embassy in Sarajevo was opened on April 10, 1996, during a visit by Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, who returned to the country in March 1998. Other Canadian ministers who have visited Bosnia-Herzegovina include the Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for Francophonie in March 1998 and the Minister of National Defence.
- During the 1992-95 conflict, up to 2,400 Canadian Forces personnel were deployed at any one time as a part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia. Currently, Canada has a contingent of 1,200 troops as part of the NATO-led Stabilization Force that is implementing the military aspects of the Dayton peace agreement and assisting with civil action.
- Canada's military in Bosnia-Herzegovina provided an invaluable contribution in delivering urgent humanitarian relief. For example, the airport in Sarajevo, which was closed during the fighting, was secured and opened by Canadian troops. Throughout an international airlift to the city from 1992 to 1996, Canadian Forces Hercules transport aircraft conducted 1,849 relief flights transporting 12,650 passengers and more than 26,400 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the besieged city.
- Canada participates fully in international efforts to ensure a lasting peace in the area and provide relief to the victims of the conflict. This is driven by Canada's desire to maintain international peace and security, its engagement in European security, and its commitment to multilateral peacekeeping. The effort also reflects a need for contacts between communities, a concern with humanitarian issues, and a strong commitment to peacebuilding and the protection of human rights.
- Canada has strongly supported the Reconstruction Program for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has \$5.1 billion US in funding and is co-ordinated by the World Bank and the European Commission. Canada has pledged