

## FRANCE AT A GLANCE

### *France-Canada Relations:*

- In the past few years, Canada-France relations have experienced a noted improvement and remarkable vitality.
- In recent years, Canada has become a source of inspiration in **France**, with the successful elimination of the deficit, the introduction of new communication technologies, the implementation of Government On-Line, the harmonious integration of immigrants, etc. Canada and **France** closely cooperate on the major issues of modern governance.
- **France** is the second-largest foreign investor in Canada after the United States. French investment in Canada totals \$32.2 billion (2002).
- **France** is Canada's third-largest global science and technology partner.
- **France** is Canada's third-largest European trading partner and seventh-largest world trading partner. It is a key market for Canadian finished goods that have a high technological content and strong value-added.
- The Declaration of Enhanced Partnership, signed by our Prime Ministers in 1997, and the **France-Canada** Action Program, signed in 1998, frame our bilateral relations and guide our activities.

### *Canada, France and the European Union:*

*Many of the themes in the Canada-European Union Partnership Agenda also lend themselves to **France-Canada** cooperation. Possible examples:*

- Canada, **France** and the EU share a community of values that foster close cooperation on the major foreign policy issues of the day, including the International Criminal Court, the Kyoto Protocol, multilateralism, and strengthening the UN.
- Canada and **France** are in a good position to work together bilaterally in a number of priority sectors that are also part of the Canada-EU Partnership Agenda, such as cooperation in the area of international security, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, cultural diversity, the North, the environment, and youth exchanges.
- **France** is one of the most active member states—with the great influence—within the European Union. **France** supports European-level policy harmonization efforts, particularly on environmental, fiscal, industrial and social issues.
- During his official visit to Canada in May 2003, French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin voiced **France's** desire to help reach a new-generation agreement on trade and investment between Canada and the European Union and to work with its European partners to develop enhanced Canada-EU relations.
- Canada and the European Union will shortly begin negotiating a Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA), which aims to facilitate the movement of people and capital. We believe that **France** and Canada will benefit from this agreement.