

Canadian-German Bilateral Relations

The relationship between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) is a good one. It is rooted in common membership in the Atlantic Alliance, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Economic Summits, the United Nations and other international fora as well as in strong trade and economic ties. Canadians of German origin constitute the third largest ethnic group in the country (4.7% – 1.1 million in the 1981 census).

For the FRG, Canada's NATO commitment is a key element in our bilateral relationship. The FRG is Canada's most important defence partner after the United States. The stationing of 7,200 Canadian troops and some 12,500 dependents in Lahr and Baden-Söllingen (in Germany's Black Forest area) and the training of 5,500 German soldiers and airmen annually in Canada at Shilo and Goose Bay are highly visible and much appreciated activities. Like Canada, the FRG participates in disarmament negotiations such as the Conference on Arms Control and Disarmament (CAD) and the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR), where the FRG's defence and security interests are directly engaged.

Canada maintains close, regular consultations with the FRG on multilateral economic issues