

FINLAND AT A GLANCE

Finland-Canada Relations:

- Growing business links: two-way trade of \$1.273 billion (2003); **Finland** is the 17th largest foreign direct investor in Canada (\$813 million in 2002).
- Strong people-to-people ties: 114,690 Canadians claim Finnish Heritage (Census 2001), with a large concentration in Thunder Bay, Ontario (12, 825); both countries share a passion for hockey!
- The state visit to **Finland** by Canada's Governor General Adrienne Clarkson (October 2003).
- Like-minded multilateral partners: UN, OSCE, WTO, OECD; peacekeeping, human rights and building civil society (especially in Russia and the Balkans); Global Partnership Program.
- Shared interests in the North: Arctic Council, University of the Arctic, EU Northern Dimension Program of Action, indigenous ties, parliamentary relations.
- "Best Practices": growing dialogue and cooperation on health, e-government, science and technology, environment, biotechnology, forestry, immigration & integration, innovation policy.

Canada, Finland and the European Union:

- **International Security & Effective Multilateralism:** **Finland** is a valued partner in promoting UN reform, Responsibility to Protect, peacekeeping, human rights, building civil society, gender equality issues. **Finland's** evolving policy of non-alignment favors an "open" ESDP defense core and NATO's Partnership for Peace.
- **Global Economic Prosperity:** Progress on the TIEA trade talks will help our competitive export-oriented economies and increase professional mobility. **Finland** is a world leader in forestry and pulp & paper. The EU's Chemicals Agency will be established in Helsinki in the next years (new chemicals registration & controls). Mutual benefits of cooperating on: science & technology, bio-technology, innovation, IT, regulatory regimes, forest technology and the WTO (Doha).
- **Justice and Home Affairs:** **Finland** looks to Canada for ideas on immigration and integration and on policing and correctional services.
- **Global and Regional Challenges:** **Finland's** unique perspective and role in the Baltic region and with Russia. **Finland** spearheaded the EU's has a Northern Dimension Policy and Action Plan, where there is scope for closer cooperation with Canada and in the Arctic Council (human development). **Finland's** environmental stewardship brings scope for increased cooperation, especially on forests, water, Kyoto and sustainable development. Partners on development assistance.
- **People-To-People:** Our youth are our future. We need to work together to increase two-way youth and academic exchanges and programs. Parliamentary ties can be strengthened, as can our whole-of-government inter-action between our respective government ministries.

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