

The two countries work closely in the CSCE and as members of the NATO-sponsored North Atlantic Cooperation Council. Recently, both attended the first session of the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export Controls (COCOM) Cooperation Forum, which aims to improve access to technology.

Size and geography have dictated that Canada and Russia face many common challenges, and the two countries have similar potential in energy, agriculture, forestry, the environment, industrial restructuring, transport and communication.

In recent years, Russia and Canada have co-operated closely in the Arctic. Prime Minister Mulroney and President Yeltsin renewed this commitment in June 1992 by signing the updated Agreement on Arctic and Northern Cooperation which provides for enhanced participation by aboriginal people and a new emphasis on economic links.

Both Canada and Russia supported the creation of the International Arctic Science Council, and the two countries are now working together to form an international arctic council with a broader social, economic and environmental mandate.

Co-operation also extends to the military sphere, where staff talks and visits to training facilities are now annual events. Canadian and Russian troops are serving together in the UN peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslavia.

From 1988 to 1991, Canadian visas issued to visitors from the former Soviet Union doubled to 27,426. Official academic exchanges sent 22 Canadian scholars to Russia and 21 Russian scholars to Canada in 1991.