

Relations Between Canada and Italy

- Canada and Italy have developed numerous ties in industry, business and culture. Canada is home to over 1.5 million people of Italian descent.
- Canada and Italy work together as members of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the G-8, the World Trade Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Canada and Italy co-operate in UN peacekeeping missions and support the need for reform of the UN Security Council.
- There have been many high-level visits between Canadian and Italian leaders over the years. Recent bilateral contacts include the visit by Canada's Prime Minister to Rome for a transatlantic summit in June 1996; the Italian President's visit to Canada in June 1997 to mark the 500th anniversary of Cabot's voyage to Newfoundland; the April 1997 visit of Canada's Minister for International Trade to Rome and Milan; and visits in fall 1997 by the Canadian ministers of National Defence, of Canadian Heritage and of Public Works and Government Services.
- Canada and Italy share strong arms-control and non-proliferation positions. In Ottawa on Dec. 3, 1997, Italy's Foreign Minister signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.
- The ties between Canada and Italy are demonstrated in many ways. Aside from tourism, there is the growing success enjoyed by Canadian artists, musicians, authors, and filmmakers in the Italian cultural marketplace. The growth of Canadian studies in Italy and other bilateral academic contacts also are noteworthy. New ways are being considered for increasing contacts between Canadian and Italian parliamentarians.

Economic Relations

- Italy is Canada's ninth largest trading partner and 12th largest export market. Canada's exports to Italy in 1997 amounted to \$1.5 billion, while Italian exports to Canada were \$3.1 billion.