

Relations Between Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- Historically, Canada's relations with the United Kingdom have been very close on the political, economic and security fronts.
- The United Kingdom is a valuable dialogue partner for Canada on such foreign policy issues as NATO reform and expansion, Russia, the crisis in Kosovo, and UN reform. Britain and Canada worked closely together in the Ottawa Process to achieve a treaty leading to the abolition of anti-personnel mines. Canada works with the United Kingdom in the Commonwealth on various issues. Promoting democracy, notably in Nigeria, is one example.
- In London, in May 1998, the Canadian and British prime ministers reviewed progress under their 1997 joint declaration charting a course for the Canada-U.K. relationship into the next century. Results include intensified exchanges in science and technology; linking schools and students through the Internet; and sharing expertise and experience in areas of public administration, such as customs and law enforcement. Private sector co-operation in the aerospace sector has also been directly stimulated by the joint declaration. Parliamentary relations, another focus of the initiative, have been enhanced, with a number of committee visits during the year.
- Canada's active and growing links with Northern Ireland are maintained and reinforced through its high commission in London and an honorary consulate in Belfast. These links are enhanced by a variety of cultural exchange programs and a Canadian studies program at Queen's University in Belfast.

Trade and Investment

- Canada's commercial relations with the United Kingdom are more extensive than with any other country in Europe. The U.K. is Canada's fastest growing export destination, after the United States, and a major market for Canadian primary products, manufactured goods, and services. Trends show a steady shift toward value-added products and services. More than 25 per cent of Canada's exports to the European Union are sold to the U.K.
- Two-way trade increased by three per cent in 1998, reaching \$10.6 billion. Canadian exports to the United Kingdom increased by 13 per cent,