

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1956, Pearson is fondly remembered by Canadians as the prime minister responsible for the adoption of the distinctive Canadian maple leaf flag.

During the 1950s, Lester B. Pearson and Australia's Richard Casey, both external affairs ministers, shared much in terms of experience, attitudes and sensibilities, and came to develop a close personal and professional relationship.

8. Prime Ministers' Visits

In 1943, the Right Honourable Robert (later Sir Robert) Menzies became the first Australian Prime Minister to visit Canada following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 1944, this was followed by a visit to Canada by the Right Honourable John Curtin, who was the first Australian Prime Minister to address both Houses of the Canadian Parliament.

Some 17 years later, in 1958, the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker was the first Canadian Prime Minister to visit Australia. On a week-long visit to Australia, the Prime Minister visited Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, before departing for New Zealand.

This visit was followed, in May 1970, by the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Trudeau. Following a brief visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Prime Minister Trudeau travelled to Canberra and Sydney as part of a five-nation tour of Asia and the Pacific. While in Canberra, he met with the Prime



Minister of Australia, the Right Honourable John Gorton and had discussions with the Cabinet.

These visits led to greater public recognition of mutual interests and to increased contact between the countries, especially in trade and technology.

A plaque commemorating Prime Minister Trudeau's visit can be found beside the Canadian maple tree (*Acer saccharinum fastigiata*) he planted in the Chancery grounds.