

Relations Between Canada and the United Kingdom

- 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, Bosnia, and UN reform. Britain and Canada have 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 such issues as the promotion of democracy, notably in Nigeria. Canada shares Britain's interests in the evolution of Hong Kong, which became the Special Administrative Region of China on July 1, 1997.
- At the Denver Summit in June 1997, the Canadian and British prime ministers issued a Joint Declaration charting a course for the bilateral relationship into the next century. The strategy emphasizes intensified exchanges in science and technology, in linking schools and students through the Internet, and in sharing expertise and experience in areas of public administration such as customs and law enforcement. Enhanced parliamentary links and foreign policy consultation will be complemented by increasing investment, especially in emerging technology sectors such as biotechnology.
- Traditional allies, the United Kingdom and Canada will enhance their defence collaboration under the Joint Declaration and through several important procurement programs. The Canadian Forces will add four British Upholder-class conventional submarines to their fleet, replacing their British Oberon-class subs. These will ensure extensive bilateral naval co-operation in the years ahead. The Canadian Forces have also purchased the British-Italian Cormorant helicopter for search and rescue missions.
- The United Kingdom continues to be a close ally of Canada in collective defence and security and a frequent associate in peacekeeping operations, such as in Bosnia where British and Canadian troops currently serve side by side. Britain is a strong advocate of deepening transatlantic ties between the European Union and North America, including transatlantic trade liberalization. From January to June 1998, Britain holds the presidency of the EU, which provides Canada a solid point of entry for relations with the EU.