

We have exchanges of young technicians and Mexican agricultural workers come each year to supplement seasonal shortages of labour on Canadian farms.

In addition, there are frequent meetings between our Parliamentarians. One of these annual events will be held shortly in Canada.

These and other exchanges in areas such as films and the performing arts, amount to a constant flow of people and ideas and information between our countries, building mutual respect and understanding.

The momentum behind this thriving relationship, involving both public and private initiative, is supported by a joint ministerial committee and frequent consultations between ministers and senior officials. The state visit to Canada by President de la Madrid in 1984 emphasized the importance of dialogue at the highest level between our two countries.

I am determined that the bonds between our countries will continue to strengthen. This visit by Secretary Sepulveda will impart new momentum to the relationship.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I propose a toast to the distinguished Secretary of External Relations of the United Mexican States and to the continued close relationship between our two countries.