

Canada–Republic of Guatemala Relations

Bilateral Relations

- Canada and Guatemala established diplomatic relations in 1961. In 1991, Canada's mission in Guatemala was upgraded to full embassy status with a resident ambassador.
- Canada has frequently expressed its concern about human rights in Guatemala and has made available substantial support for democratic development in this country.
- The Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, Christine Stewart, visited Guatemala in April 1994 and March 1996.
- Canada supports the United Nations-moderated peace negotiations and the UN Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala.
- Canada is an active member of an international support group monitoring the return of Guatemalan refugees.

Trade and Investment

- In 1995, two-way trade between Canada and Guatemala stood at \$134.8 million. Major Canadian exports to Guatemala, totalling \$41.4 million, consisted of newsprint and other paper products, wheat and durum wheat, potassium chloride and polyethylene, and telephone apparatus and equipment. Major Canadian imports from Guatemala, totalling \$93.4 million, were coffee, fresh fruit and vegetables (particularly bananas and peas), clothing, sesame seeds and soap.
- Guatemala offers excellent opportunities for Canadian business. The best trade prospects for Canadian exporters are agricultural and industrial machinery, food-processing items, electronics, telecommunications, consulting services, energy generation, hospital and medical equipment, and paper products.

Development Assistance Co-operation

- Canada's bilateral development assistance to Guatemala focuses on human rights, democratization and poverty alleviation.
- The Support for Local Development Project is helping to improve community infrastructure, production cooperatives, training, and the participation of women, and is supporting the re-integration of refugees and displaced populations. This \$10.5 million project is delivered by the Société de coopération pour le développement international.