

## **Canada-Ireland Relations**

- Canada and Ireland have a longstanding and diverse relationship rooted in common history, shared values, and traditions. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have been in place for 65 years. In recent years, co-operation has developed and grown in new areas like science and technology and cultural industries, as well as on the international stage.
- High-level visits and business missions help reinforce the relationship. Most recently, in October 2003, Canada hosted Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and a delegation of business and parliamentary representatives.
- During the visit, an updated Canada-Ireland Double Taxation Agreement was signed to streamline the rules for doing business between the two countries.
- Internationally, Canada and Ireland collaborate closely at the United Nations, in the Human Security Network and in other international forums — to advance a mutual commitment to multilateralism; peacekeeping; and development assistance, particularly for Africa. Both Ireland and Canada were leaders in building international support for the Ottawa Convention to ban landmines.
- Canada welcomes Irish co-operation and support in advancing closer transatlantic relations, particularly between Canada and the European Union.
- Canada supports the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in sustaining the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Canada has contributed more than \$5.1 million to the International Fund for Ireland to support youth training, often in Canada, and community reconciliation. Canadian experts like retired general John de Chastelain, head of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, also play pivotal roles in supporting the process.

### **Trade and investment**

- Two-way trade remains substantial, despite Ireland's small population, reaching \$2.35 billion in 2003. Canadian exports were worth \$446.9 million; Canadian imports, \$1.9 billion.
- The top four Canadian exports to Ireland in 2003 were computer parts, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications equipment, and pulp. Canada's four main imports were pharmaceuticals, chemical products, computer parts, and liqueurs.