

Mauritius

Independence Date:	March 12, 1968
Capital:	Port Louis
Population:	993,678 (1983 census)
Economy:	Mauritius's economy is heavily dependent on sugar (sugar accounts for 64% of export earnings). In recent years, however, the country has made significant gains in diversifying its economy to manufacturing and tourism.

Canada/Mauritius Relations: Bilateral relations between Canada and Mauritius (established in 1967) are friendly. Public speeches by both PM Jugnauth and Foreign Minister Gayan have mentioned Canada as a country with which relations should be expanded. Future development cooperation will depend largely upon the development of new projects with non-governmental organizations and institutional cooperation. Canada is completing a water supply project on Mauritius' second island, Rodrigues. Canada's once considerable imports of Mauritian sugar have dwindled to a negligible figure. Our exports to Mauritius are relatively insignificant. In 1983, Mauritius developed a substantial market in Canada for its textiles (sweaters). A Memorandum of Understanding covering voluntary restraints on exports of textiles to Canada was successfully concluded in May 1984 and will apply until 1986.

Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth: At 55 years of age, Prime Minister Jugnauth's career has centered on his political interests, with a short hiatus in the early 1970s when he was Senior Crown Counsel in the Crown Law Office. In 1971 he joined the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) and served as leader of the opposition from 1976 until 1982. He was then elected Prime Minister and re-elected in August 1983.