

- Canada supports the Republic of Korea's continuing efforts to improve relations with North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and to lessen tensions on the divided peninsula.
- Canada joined the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States at the preliminary conference of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization held in New York in March 1995. The organization was established to monitor the transformation of North Korea's energy sector and to ensure it complies with its non-proliferation obligations.
- Bilateral relations have been enhanced considerably through the Canada-Republic of Korea Special Partnership, conceived by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Kim Young Sam at the 1993 APEC Summit. The partnership is designed to forge closer co-operation in areas of trade, investment, industrial technological co-operation and development assistance in other Asian countries.
- Several high-level bilateral visits have taken place over the last year to help strengthen the Special Partnership. In September 1995, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment Sheila Copps led the first-ever environmental mission to the Republic of Korea to promote Canadian environmental technology, products and services. In January 1995, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan visited the Republic of Korea, where he officially opened the office of Canada's honorary consul in Pusan, an emerging focal point of economic activity in the country.

Trade

- Canada's trade relationship with the Republic of Korea continues to gain momentum. When two-way trade reached \$4.7 billion in 1994, Korea became Canada's third most important export destination in the Asia-Pacific region and sixth-largest export market in the world. Canadian exports rose 28 per cent in 1994 to \$2.2 billion — their highest level ever. Imports from Korea increased 14 per cent over the previous year to \$2.5 billion.
- Major Canadian exports to Korea include coal and mineral fuels, pulp, organic chemicals, cereals, aluminum products, iron and steel, fertilizers, energy equipment, telecommunications equipment and aerospace products.
- Major Canadian imports from Korea include electronic equipment (televisions, VCRs), vehicles and parts, clothing, footwear and textile products, and mechanical equipment.