

## **Canada–Lebanon Relations**

- Canada and Lebanon have enjoyed excellent relations for many years, reinforced by their membership in the United Nations, la Francophonie, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Canada and Lebanon established embassies in one another's capitals in 1958.
- Lebanon's Prime Minister visited Canada in 1997 and the President attended the Summit of la Francophonie in Moncton in September 1999. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister and the International Trade Minister visited Lebanon in 1997, while the Minister of Public Works and Government Services visited that country in 1998, followed by the Minister of Transport in April 1999.
- Currently 11 Canadian Forces personnel serve in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, which assists in supervising the general armistice agreements that Israel signed separately with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.
- The Lebanese-Canadian community is estimated at 250,000, living mostly in Montreal and Toronto. Two Canadian members of Parliament, Mark Assad and Mac Harb, and Senator Pierre Debané are of Lebanese origin.

## **Trade and Investment**

- Canada's two-way trade with Lebanon is modest, amounting to \$61.5 million in 1999. Canadian commodity exports to Lebanon totalled \$46.2 million in 1999. Exports included wheat, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, seeds and wood products. Imports from Lebanon, valued at \$15.3 million, increased 92 per cent from 1998. Major imports were cement, nuts, seeds, olive oil, cotton, vegetables and other food products.
- Canada and Lebanon have a foreign investment protection agreement which came into effect in 1999. The countries also signed a double-taxation agreement in 1998 and are negotiating an air agreement. The Export Development Corporation has a \$10 million US line of credit with Credit Libanais and is negotiating a second line of credit with Byblos Bank. The corporation is also negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Council for Development and Reconstruction to facilitate co-operation on joint transactions.