

## CANADA - BARBADOS TRADE

Canada and Barbados have a tradition of excellent and long standing bilateral relations based upon trade, investment and tourism and linkages.

Trade has played an important role in strengthening these links. Canadian exports to Barbados have averaged approximately \$40 million from 1984 to 1988. Imports from Barbados have fluctuated somewhat over the same period, totalling \$7.5 million in 1984, and rising to \$21.3 million in 1986. Total exports in 1988 were estimated at \$6.6 million.

Canada imports electrical parts, sugar, oil and fuels, and rum from Barbados, while it exports telecommunications equipment, pulp and paper, potatoes and vegetables, and pharmaceuticals to the island nation.

An important aspect of bilateral relations between our countries is tourism. In 1988 alone 65,700 Canadians visited Barbados; making an important contribution to local economic development.

Prime Minister Mulroney attended the Canada-Commonwealth Caribbean Heads of Government meeting in Barbados March 18-20, 1990, hosted by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford. The meeting was convened to review relations between Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean States.

Twenty-five representatives of the Canadian business community also participated in the Canadian Solo Trade Show held in Barbados from March 19-21, 1990, which highlighted Canadian capabilities in the supply of goods and services to the hotel, restaurant and institutional sectors. Other identified sectors of opportunity for Canadian suppliers include agriculture and food, construction, advanced technology, and education, medical and health equipment and services.

The strong political and economic links between Canada and Barbados should result in expanded trade and investment flows between both countries. It is expected that, having weathered a period of modest growth in the last decade, trade relations are now poised to improve further in the 1990's.