

Canada-France Bilateral Relations

Bilateral relations between France and Canada may be termed productive and friendly.

In recent years, Canada-France relations have been furthered by a series of visits by our respective heads of state and government. Moreover, official visits by the premiers of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick in 1989 confirmed France's growing interest in the regions of Canada. Prime Minister Mulroney paid a visit to France in 1990, as did Premier Don Getty of Alberta in 1991.

France and Canada work together closely both in international institutions such as the UN, the G-7, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and La Francophonie and in the context of international conferences such as Ottawa's "Open Skies" Conference of February 1990.

The problem of fishing and maritime boundaries was the object of a 1989 agreement whereby an arbitration tribunal was formed to demarcate the maritime zones and establish an interim fishing agreement. The tribunal will make its ruling known late in 1991.

Cultural cooperation between France and Canada is most evident in government initiatives, such as the cultural agreement of 1965, the museological cooperation agreement of 1990, and numerous exchange programs, as well as in the dynamic interchange of artists and the dissemination of their works in both countries.

Thirteen Canadian-studies centres in Paris and other French cities serve in various ways to promote an understanding of Canada in France — through seminars, visiting professorships, student exchanges and training courses.

Finally, Canada and France are working closely together in the audio-visual field, through co-production agreements and joint participation in TV-5. More than \$300 million has been invested in co-productions since 1986.

France has underscored its interest in cultural cooperation by easing access to Canadian works on the French and European markets.