



CANADA-MALI RELATIONS

Relations between our two countries are essentially based on the co-operation program, which makes Canada one of Mali's chief partners. The objective of this program is to achieve a social and ecological balance in Mali.

Politically, our relations with Mali are cordial. Mali is a member of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) and a partner in La Francophonie. Minister Landry visited Mali in 1988 for bilateral consultations, and President Konaré made a working visit to Canada in October 1992.

However, there is virtually no trade between Canada and Mali. Canadian exports are related to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) program and to the contracts that a few Canadian firms are able to secure as part of multilaterally financed assistance projects. The Government of Mali has been represented in Canada by Ambassador Souleymane Sidibé since February 1993, and Canada's accredited ambassador to Mali is Mr. J. Denis Bélisle, who resides in Abidjan.

In 1992, Elections Canada participated very actively in planning Mali's democratic elections, and Suzanne Duplessis, Member of Parliament for Louis-Hébert and Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Landry, led the delegation that attended President Konaré's inauguration.

Canada's Assistance Program for Mali

Last year (1992), Canada and Mali celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their co-operation in development. In recent years, concerted action has been focused on the following objectives: stabilization of the vegetation cover, food balance and the development of energy resources. These involvements were based on the importance of training human resources, who, in turn, are a strategic component for the entire co-operation program.

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