

## IRELAND AT A GLANCE

### *Ireland-Canada Relations:*

- Longstanding, diverse and vibrant relationship, rooted in our common history and shared values.
- Significant people-to-people ties: 13% of Canadians claim some Irish ancestry (3.8 million - 2001 Census); youth mobility is on the rise: in 2003, a bilateral Working Holiday Program agreement was signed, with 300 placements for youth (150 each way), to increase to 1,000 placements (500 for each country) in 2004.
- Significant commercial links: 4th largest recipient of Canadian direct investment worldwide (\$16.5 billion as of 2002); two-way trade of \$2.35 billion (2003), with growing science and technology cooperation.
- 2004 marks the 65th Anniversary of formal diplomatic relations, highlighted by the official visit of Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and Ministers Cowen and Ahern to Canada (March 2004).
- Like-minded multilateral partners: UN, human rights, peacekeeping; development assistance, particularly Africa; OECD, Human Security Network.
- Supporters of the Northern Ireland Peace Process.
- “Best Practices”: growing dialogue and cooperation on development assistance, especially for Africa; education, parliamentary reform, healthcare, social and economic policies and reforms.

### *Canada, Ireland and the European Union:*

- **International Security & Effective Multilateralism:** Ireland is a valued partner in promoting UN reform, peacekeeping, human rights, human security and the Northern Ireland Peace Process.
- **Global Economic Prosperity:** Progress on the TIEA trade talks will help our competitive export-oriented economies and increase professional mobility. Ireland is a strong promoter of the EU’s Lisbon process. Mutual benefits of cooperating on: innovation, science & technology, IT, bio-technology and fisheries protection.
- **Justice and Home Affairs:** Ireland looks to Canada to share ideas on immigration/integration.
- **Global and Regional Challenges:** Canada looks to Ireland as a “model” for international development assistance: amongst OECD countries, Ireland gives the higher proportion of its assistance to the poorest countries. Potential for increasing cooperation on sustainable development, assistance to Africa, health issues and the Human Security Network.
- **People-To-People:** Our youth are our future. Let’s work towards a more comprehensive framework for our university exchange agreements, and our student and young worker exchange programs. Parliamentary ties can be strengthened, as can whole-of-government inter-action between our counterpart government ministries.