

Canada–Guatemala Relations

- Canada and Guatemala enjoy good relations reinforced by their membership in the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS). The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1961 and Guatemala opened an embassy in Ottawa that year. In 1991, Canada upgraded its mission in Guatemala to full embassy status with a resident ambassador.
- Canada has frequently expressed concern about human rights in Guatemala and fully supports the 1996 Guatemala Peace Accords. Canada provided financial assistance for the peace accord initiative, designed to help Guatemala peacefully shift to a more open and democratic society. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister visited Guatemala three times in 1996 during the lead-up to the signing of the accords and formally represented Canada at the ceremony.
- A number of senior Canadian officials have visited Guatemala in the last few years, including the Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), who travelled there in January and August 2000, twice in 1999, and twice in 1996. The Foreign Affairs Minister of Guatemala participated in the OAS General Assembly in Windsor, Ontario, in April 2000; and in the 1997 international conference in Ottawa, where the treaty banning landmines was signed. Guatemala's president, Foreign Minister, and Minister of the Economy took part in a visit to Canada by leaders of six Central American countries in 1996.
- Four police officers and one member from the Canadian Forces are participating in the UN Human Rights Verification Mission to Guatemala. Under mandates of the UN General Assembly, the mission monitors the human rights situation, verifies that conditions of the peace accords are carried out, and supports the strengthening of institutions.
- Canada is active in an international support group monitoring the return of Guatemalan refugees.

Trade and investment

- In 1999, two-way trade between Canada and Guatemala represented about \$289 million. Major Canadian exports to Guatemala, totalling \$167 million, consisted of pulp and paper products including newsprint, wheat and durum wheat, fertilizers and telephone equipment. Major Canadian imports from Guatemala, totalling \$122 million, were coffee, cut flowers and agricultural products, including sesame seeds, fruit and vegetables.