

Sea and North Atlantic. Canada is also a member of 10 international fisheries commissions which investigate specific living marine resources in defined areas.

Canada participates in an international program set up under UNESCO to facilitate a better scientific understanding of hydrological phenomena and in an operational hydrological program set up under WMO.

The WHO designated the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW) at Burlington, Ont. as its international collaboration centre for surface and groundwater quality. Canada has also been active on the marine environment protection committee of the IMO.

Canada signed the final Act of the Conference and the Law of the Sea Convention at Montego Bay, Jamaica in December 1982. Among other environmental processes, Canada was able to secure international recognition of Canadian environmental legislation for Arctic waters through the convention.

Canada contributes to the environment fund of the United Nations Environment Program, the only multilateral intergovernmental body established solely to deal with global and regional environmental issues. It is essentially a co-ordinating body. Its work program includes global environmental monitoring and assessment studies of climate, the atmosphere and ozone layer; a scientific information exchange and an international register of potentially toxic chemicals; and activities in such areas as encroaching deserts, soils, water, living resources, environmental law, human settlements and human health, ecosystems, environment and development, oceans, energy and natural disasters.

Canada participates in activities of the senior advisers on environmental problems, a principal subsidiary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Projects included are long-range transport of air pollutants, environmental impact assessment and environmental indicators. Canada also contributes to the committee on water problems, another ECE subsidiary body.

As a member of the international co-ordinating council of the UNESCO program on man and the biosphere Canada has been influential in injecting four social science concerns: urbanization and industrialization, agricultural and forestry management practices, coastal ecosystems, and Arctic and isolated area development.

The OECD has an environment committee to examine common problems. The areas most pertinent for Canada are chemicals, state of the environment, economies of environment, energy, air and toxic wastes.

As a member of the World Weather Watch, Canada has set up nine stations of a planned network of 11 for monitoring air pollution in non-urban areas.

21.4 Activities by region

21.4.1 The United States

There is no more important external relationship for Canada than that with the United States. Because of geography and economic and social patterns, the two countries have developed extensive mechanisms to deal with an extremely wide range of policies and programs. Besides informal consultations, there are official and technical committees in which Canadian and US officials discuss defence and transboundary environmental matters. The International Joint Commission, an independent agency, was established by the US and Canada in 1909. It deals with regulation of flows of boundary waters and the abatement of transboundary air and water pollution. Canada and the US have a long history of defence co-operation through a permanent joint board on defence through the North American Air Defence (NORAD) and through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In trade, Canada and the United States are each other's best customer. Usually, Canada sells to the US about 70% of all exports and buys from the US about 20% of all US exports.

21.4.2 The Caribbean

Canada has long enjoyed close relations with the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. In 1979 Canada signed a trade and economic agreement with the countries of the Caribbean Commonwealth market (CARICOM). At the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in St. Lucia in February 1983, Canada reaffirmed its commitment to the Commonwealth Caribbean as a priority region for Canadian aid and development.

21.4.3 Latin America

In addition to maintaining diplomatic relations with all Latin American countries through resident missions with dual or multiple accreditation, Canada is associated with the inter-American system through observer status in many inter-American institutions including a permanent observer mission to the Organization of American States in Washington, DC.

Trade is a major feature of contemporary Canadian relations with Latin America. Exports to, and imports from the Latin American region have risen in recent years, although problems in the economies of such countries as Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela have had a dampening effect on Canadian exports to those areas. Canada has developed industrial and technical co-operation agreements with countries of the Latin American region. Venezuela is the leading supplier of oil to Canada, and the volume of oil imported from Mexico has increased markedly in the 1980s.

21.4.4 Europe

Canada's cultural and social ties with Western Europe and shared commitment to its security