

**ECE.** In activities of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Canada participates in the Executive Body of the 1979 Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its working groups, as well as in the committee on water problems. In July 1985, Canada signed the protocol to the 1979 convention which calls for the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by 30% by 1993 at the latest.

**UNESCO.** Canada participates in the international hydrological program set up to facilitate a better scientific understanding of hydrological phenomena. As a member of the international coordinating council of the 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. In November 1985, Canada was elected a member of the World Heritage Committee.

**IMO.** Canada participates in the marine environment protection committee of the International Maritime Organization and in the scientific group on dumping. IMO is depositary of the London Dumping Convention, to which Canada is a signatory.

**WHO.** Following the 1974 agreement between Canada and the World Health Organization, the Canada Centre for Inland Waters was designated as a WHO international collaborating centre on surface and groundwater and acts on behalf of WHO in the execution of Canada's part of the project.

**OECD.** Canada participates in the environment committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The work of the committee is carried out through working groups which cover such areas as chemicals, energy, waste management, natural resources management, economy and environment, and the state of the environment.

**IUCN.** The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources is both an intergovernmental and non-governmental organization which aims at the conservation and management of natural resources. Canada chairs the commission on national parks and protected 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.

Geography, history, trade and economic opportunities and close social connections account for the extraordinary degree of interdependence which exists. Canada and the United States are each other's best customer by far. In 1985, Canada sold 78% of its exports to the US, accounting for 24% of Canada's GNP, and bought 22% of US global exports. In an effort to ensure and extend our access to the US market, the government has launched negotiations aimed at reaching a new trading arrangement with the United States.

Due to the wide range of issues that arise at the official level, many consultative mechanisms have been developed to deal with specific groups of problems. Most notable are the annual Summits between the Prime Minister and the President and quarterly meetings between the two foreign ministers. There are a whole range of contacts by other ministers, including those in provincial and state governments, and parliamentary contact. Other consultative mechanisms include The International Joint Commission which deals with transboundary problems such as pollution and flows of boundary waters. In defence, co-operation is ensured bilaterally through the North American Air Defence (NORAD) arrangements and multilaterally through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

### 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). In February 1985, at a meeting with his Commonwealth Caribbean counterparts in Kingston, Jamaica, Prime Minister Mulroney reaffirmed Canada's 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 maintains a permanent observer mission to the Organization of American States in Washington, DC, and is a full member of many inter-American institutions.

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