



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND CANADA



Partners by choice, allies for the future

For fifty years, the European Union and Canada have built a close partnership founded on shared values, with strong ties in trade, security, climate action and research, as well as close people-to-people ties—a partnership that, in an increasingly uncertain world, has never been stronger. Established in Ottawa in 1976, the Delegation of the European Union to Canada is the voice of the EU in Canada. With offices in Ottawa and Montreal, and new EU Provincial Hubs starting in Ontario, the Delegation works with all levels of Canadian government, Indigenous peoples, EU Member State embassies, businesses, academia, civil society and the media.

The partnership in figures

€130 bn+
trade in goods
and services
(2025)



No. 2
the EU is Canada's
second-largest
trading partner



+76%
growth in
goods trade
since 2016



€245 bn
EU investment
in Canada
(2024)



490 million
people – almost
one fifth of the
world economy



7,000+
Erasmus+ student
and staff
exchanges
since 2015



A PARTNERSHIP THAT DELIVERS TO CANADIANS AND EUROPEANS

Four pillars bring our shared values to life.



Democracy, human rights and multilateralism

The EU and Canada stand together for democracy, human rights, gender equality and the rule of law, at home and around the world. We champion a rules-based international order with the United Nations at its core, and we support the independent functioning of international criminal justice. We work side by side in the G7 and other multilateral fora, and we join forces to counter foreign information manipulation and interference targeting our democracies.



Peace and security

We stand with Ukraine for a just and lasting peace, through sanctions, political, humanitarian, financial and military support. Since 2025, the EU-Canada Security and Defence Partnership has framed our cooperation, from crisis management and the defence industry to hybrid threats. In 2026, Canada became the first non-European country to take part in Security Action for Europe (SAFE), the EU's €150 billion defence procurement instrument. Canada's commitment to European security includes its largest overseas deployment of armed forces, and the Arctic remains an area of close cooperation.



Prosperity and economic security

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), applied since 2017, eliminates 99% of tariff lines between our markets. Trade in goods has grown by more than 76% since 2016, and EU investment in Canada stood at almost €245 billion in 2024. Together, we are building secure supply chains for critical raw materials, clean energy and key technologies, and working towards a Digital Trade Agreement.



Climate, innovation and people

Trough the EU-Canada Green Alliance, we lead on climate action, carbon pricing and biodiversity, and we co-convene the Global Methane Pledge. Since 2024, Canada has been associated with Horizon Europe, giving Canadian researchers access on terms comparable to those of EU Member States. Our Digital Partnership advances trustworthy artificial intelligence and safer online platforms. Erasmus+ has supported more than 7,000 student and staff exchanges between Canada and Europe since 2015.

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TOWARDS A NEW CHAPTER



***"Canada and Europe are each strong.
Europe and Canada are stronger
together."***

***"We share one ocean, one set of values, one
way of seeing the world. And we will now
build our shared future as well."***

Photo: EC – Audiovisual Service

Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada,
Strasbourg, 17 September 2026

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European
Commission, Strasbourg, 16 September 2026

Milestones

- 1959: Canada–Euratom nuclear cooperation agreement–relations begin
- 1976: Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation; the Delegation of the European Union to Canada opens in Ottawa
- 2016: Strategic Partnership Agreement and Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement signed
- 2017: CETA comes into effect
- 2023: Green Alliance and Digital Partnership launched
- 2024: Canada associated with Horizon Europe
- 2025: Security and Defence Partnership; Strategic Partnership of the Future
- 2026: Canada joins Security Action for Europe; Alliance for the Future proposed
- 2026: First non-European leader to attend a European Political Community Summit
- 2026: Canada invited to become the first associate member of the European Union

THE EU AT WORK ACROSS CANADA

The EU and Canada work hand in hand

From coast to coast to coast, the EU works hand in hand with all levels of Canadian government, indigenous peoples, businesses, universities, cities and communities.

Culture, arts and people

The European Union Film Festival, our longest-running cultural activity, brings European cinema to audiences across Canada. SCI_ART convenes artists, scientists and policymakers from Canada and the EU on wide-ranging topics, such as climate, technology and research. At **Nuit Blanche Toronto**, EU-supported projection artworks on the waterfront explore climate action. **The EU Cultural Fair**, the **EU Christmas Concert in Ottawa**, partnerships with Pride festivals and green and climate diplomacy initiatives share Europe's diversity and values with Canadian communities.

Policy dialogue

Structured dialogues bring together European and Canadian experts on democracy and information integrity, digital policy and artificial intelligence, security and defence, trade, critical minerals, agriculture and the Arctic. Since 2023, **43 events have brought together more than 5,500 participants from both sides of the Atlantic.**

Cities and regions: EU Cities Gateway

Connects cities and regions in Canada, the EU and the United States to share practical approaches on the circular economy, nature-based solutions, digital innovation and affordable housing. Eight Canadian cities take part: **Nanaimo, Edmonton, Guelph, Toronto, Terrebonne, Laval, Halifax and St. John's**, with a possibility for any other interested municipality to join the Cities Gateway community.

Youth, science and education

The Schuman Challenge, Model EU and Euro Challenge invite university and high-school students to debate the issues that matter to the EU and Canada; the top Schuman Challenge teams win a study trip to Brussels. Since 2001, **the Young Journalists Fellowship** has taken three young Canadian journalists to Brussels every year. Between 2021 and 2025, **almost 6,000 students and staff from European universities went to Canada through Erasmus+**, and more than 1,500 Canadians came to Europe. In the same period, 110 Canadian students received Erasmus Mundus scholarships, and 9 Jean Monnet projects and networks involving Canada were selected.

Research and innovation

Canadian universities, research centres and companies can **join Horizon Europe projects** on terms comparable to those of EU Member States. Information sessions and roadshows, from Waterloo to Winnipeg and Quebec City, help them build consortia and prepare strong proposals.

Sustainable business: Low Carbon Business Action Canada

Connects European clean-tech small and medium-sized enterprises with Canadian companies, Indigenous nations and enterprises, municipalities and investors. In its second phase since September 2024 alone, it has brought together **more than 500 EU companies and 270 Canadian partners, creating 45 partnerships and 7 new legally binding contracts.**

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Join the conversation:

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