



Gouvernement du Canada
Ambassade du Canada

Government of Canada
Embassy of Canada

Canada and Tunisia

A Long-lasting Partnership



Canada^{ca}

Message from the Ambassador

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and modern Tunisia, we are pleased to offer you, in the following pages, a brief retrospect and to outline the prospects for the future of Tunisian-Canadian relations. The road that we have traveled together since September 9, 1957, has been both admirable and visionary. Indeed, who could have said, 50 years ago that two countries so divided by history, geography, economy, culture and religion could become so close and could develop such a long-lasting partnership, the fruits of which have been so plentiful and so varied.

Canada is delighted to have been able to contribute to the socio-economic success enjoyed by Tunisia. While the relationship was originally centered on programs of bilateral cooperation, the emphasis gradually changed, over the course of the last decade, to partnerships and private investment, thus making Canada the 10th most important foreign investor in Tunisia today.

We fully appreciate the strategic choices which have led tens of thousands of Tunisians to attend Canadian universities while, at the same time, these universities were forging partnerships with their Tunisian counterparts. Canada draws great satisfaction from the sincere friendship demonstrated by the citizens of Tunisia towards our country via its individuals, families associations, and the numerous active partnerships which touch on most areas of the human experience.

We are delighted at what we have accomplished together on the international scene as founding countries of the Francophonie, as defenders of cultural diversity, and as promoters of peace and dialogue between civilizations. As moderate countries, Canada and Tunisia often adopt similar or complementary approaches to today's challenges.



Parliament Buildings in Ottawa

If it is true that our common francophone heritage has been a deciding factor in the development of our mutual relations, it is now our duty to integrate into our actions the fact that in Tunisia, as in Canada, two important world cultures live side by side. The opportunities that present themselves are truly promising provided that we recognize and develop them. Indeed, between Canada, an industrial G7 nation, and Tunisia, an emerging country, complementarities still remain to be exploited. The time has come to consolidate our achievements, take the necessary steps to increase our still modest bilateral trade, multiply the partnerships between our respective private sectors, and intensify the flow of investments.

Like Tunisia, which provides access to the Maghreb, Africa and the Middle East, Canada, a real microcosm of the global village, is a gateway to the economic and cultural worlds of its continent.

Fifty years is the culmination of a man's life, but in the history of modern Tunisia and the young country that is Canada, it is barely enough time to get acquainted. We should now develop this relationship into its full political, economic and social potential, and share our values while maintaining respect for our differences. Fifty years ago, in the context of the time, our predecessors made a strategic choice which has turned out to be a sensible one. Today, we have the chance to revalidate this choice in the context of intense regional economic integration and where new challenges await us. To those in Tunisia who have contributed to the development of our relationship over the last fifty years, I am honoured to offer the sincere thanks of a friendly country.

Bruno Picard
Canadian Ambassador to Tunisia

Historical Overview

The 1960s: The Beginning...

On June 22, 1956, Canada officially recognized Tunisia's independence. The following year saw the beginning of the collaboration between the two countries with the establishment of diplomatic relations made official by both parties through their representatives at the United Nations in New York on September 9, 1957.

From the beginning, in the context of the independence movement, Tunisia recognized Canada as a partner of choice for its development strategy. For its part, at a time when it was establishing aid programs for Africa, Canada discovered a country which, like itself, was keen to develop in such a way as to ensure that social justice and economic development could coexist in harmony. Canada, therefore, placed greater emphasis, from the beginning, on cooperation. Before the Embassy in Tunis was even opened, Canada and Tunisia signed, on November 12, 1964, an agreement on technical and cultural cooperation, as Canadian teachers were already on their way to Tunisia, sponsored by the Government of Canada and the Canadian University Overseas Service (CUSO). Thus, Tunisia became the first francophone country in Africa to benefit from Canadian cooperation, even before the creation in 1968, of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), emerging from the External Aid Office.

Canada was also involved in Tunisian efforts in the agricultural sector (irrigation, excavation and reorganization of the monoculture sector) notably by sending specialized equipment and tools related to the training of technicians in the field of hydraulics and rural organization. Furthermore Canada supplied Tunisia with food aid in the form of numerous shipments of wheat, the sale of which, on the local market, provided financing for the local expenses of cooperation projects.

The year 1966 marked an important milestone in the history of bilateral relations with the opening of the Canadian Embassy in Tunisia, the first Canadian diplomatic presence in North Africa. The joint commission, a consultation mechanism which has fostered the development of bilateral relations for several decades came into being under the aegis of the first resident ambassador. The joint commission allowed the two parties to review, at regular intervals, each other's positions and objectives and to outline the direction of cooperation activities and other initiatives. The first joint commission took place in February 1969.



Unloading of Canadian wheat at the port of Bizerte

The 1970s: The Relationship Grows...

Exchanges between Canada and Tunisia deepened and strengthened, particularly in the personal and cultural spheres. It was during this period, mainly due to the leadership of Tunisia and Canada, that, on March 20, 1970, the International Organization of the Francophonie was formed, emerging from the Agency for Technical and Cultural Cooperation.

In 1971, the Canada World Youth (CWY) organization was born with the goal of helping young Canadians experience a socio-cultural immersion in developing countries. Tunisia was to be one of the first partners in this program, with exchanges beginning in 1972-1973 and a memorandum of understanding signed between the CWY and the Ministry of Youth on July 22, 1975, formalizing the cooperation established between the two parties.

The first trade agreement, signed in 1969 between Canada and Tunisia, came into effect in 1972, mutually assuring the Most-Favoured-Nation treatment. In 1974, Canada also adopted the General Preferential Tariff (GPT), granting Tunisia, as well as several other developing countries, an even more advantageous tariff treatment.



Ratification of the Trade Agreement in August, 1972

In 1976, Canadian professors organized the first of more than 25 month-long training sessions for archaeology students: Every summer, a group of students sponsored by UNESCO and the National Institute of Archaeology and Art, would go to Tunisia to carry out excavations in Carthage.

Public health was at the heart of cooperation in the 1970s. The twinning of Saint-Justine Hospital and the National Institute of Childhood Health (Tunis Children's Hospital) was at first aimed at educating medical students and paramedical staff in paediatrics. In 1971, 44 Canadian healthcare professionals were involved. Collaboration also extended to other hospital facilities, including a new faculty of medicine which was created in Sousse, with Canadian assistance.

This decade also involved major infrastructure works. Aided by CIDA's concession loans, announced during the joint commissions, Tunisia began important work and launched several major projects in which Canadian companies participated: construction of the central part of the national Hertzian network for telephone communications; purchase of diesel locomotives and of airport equipment; development of a master plan for the supply of electricity, and an increase in network capacity through the construction of 1,480 km of transmission lines and numerous stations throughout the country.

In 1971, the region of Kairouan was hit by extensive flooding. In response, Canada and Tunisia signed a special agreement concerning supplementary food aid of 14,000 tons of wheat within the framework of a 2 year program. Furthermore, Canada undertook an in-depth study on the protection of the Kairouannais Plain and its industrial and agricultural development - this program resulted in Canada's participation in the construction of the Sidi Saâd Dam on the Oued Zérout, started in 1975.



A Canadian nurse and children from the Menzel Bourguiba Hospital

The 1980s: The Development of Trade...

During this decade, commercial relations between Canada and Tunisia grew. In 1982, the Canadian Embassy in Tunis opened a separate commercial section aiming at facilitating and increasing trade. As was the case during the previous decade, Canada gave Tunisia a line of credit for the purchase of Canadian commodities and semi-finished products, which were then made available to Tunisian public and private companies. The exchange value in local currency resulting from these imports was paid into a counterpart fund used to finance the local costs of various cooperation projects.



A locomotive for the SNCFT

Furthermore, in 1982, a special joint funding mechanism was approved as a contribution to Tunisia's VIIIth five year plan and to allow the country to benefit from financing with conditions adapted to its capabilities and its priorities. Under joint CIDA/ Export Development Corporation (EDC) financing, these funds were intended to finance part of the purchase costs in Canada of the goods and services required by Tunisian ministries and public, and parapublic, companies for the realization of development projects in key sectors.

With the contribution of Canadian companies, Tunisia realized comprehensive projects in the fields of transportation (airplanes, in the

fields of transportation (airplanes, locomotives), infrastructure (the Sidi Saâd Dam, inaugurated in 1983 and other important dams built in the northwest of the country) and organization (supervision of landscaping work for the sector Berges du Lac). Companies in the agri-food and telecommunications sectors also benefited from these lines of credit.

Over this period, Canadian official development assistance was concentrated on the development of human resources, technological exchanges and economic cooperation. To define this approach properly, CIDA's strategy targeted three areas: aid, trade and technology transfer; it aimed at supporting the economic and social development of Tunisia in order to encourage the transfer of technology, and to maintain and increase exports towards Tunisia.

The Canada - Tunisia Friendship Association was created on August 2, 1988. This body, whose mission was to support the development of bilateral relations brought together leaders from many different areas.



Bombardier - Challenger

The 1990s: The Relationship Becomes More Diverse...

The 1990s were characterized by the diversification of the relationship. In 1993, the Canadian Embassy created a separate immigration service to improve response to the growing demand from visitors, students and Tunisian immigration applicants. From 1994, this service was placed under the direction of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, a department which was created to group together immigration and citizenship services in order to promote Canadian identity and to favour the creation of a stronger Canada.

Business connections also diversified. While agriculture, agri-food and transportation remained priority sectors where Canada's presence stayed constant, the number of interventions and Canadian companies active in the telecommunications, energy and hydrocarbons sectors increased. Missions were organized to foster contacts between Canadian and Tunisian operators within the framework of trade fairs specialized in these sectors.

Canada directed its cooperation program in Tunisia towards technology transfer, scientific expertise and specialists' contributions on a selective basis. The aim of this type of cooperation was to create and develop medium and long-term convergence of interests. As much in the academic sector as in the economic domain, Canada favoured sustainable partnerships which could become completely or partially self-sufficient. Canadian cooperation also placed an interest in the status of women in Tunisia and supported the Centre de Recherche, d'Études, de Documentation et de l'Information sur la Femme (CREDIF) (the Centre for Research, Study, Documentation and Information on Women).



Canada at the Tunis International Fair in 1991

In 1995, two major cooperation projects were created. The Private Sector Development Fund (PSDF, 1995-2003) aimed at the transfer of technology and expertise, as well as the improvement of the entrepreneurial environment through direct support to the Tunisian productive sector. The project also supported central and public bodies responsible for shaping an environment favourable to investment. The sectors targeted were the agri-food industry, manufacturing and high technology, new information technology and quality management.

The Programme de renforcement institutionnel canadien en Tunisie (PRICAT, 1995-2002) (the Canadian Program for Institutional Reinforcement in Tunisia) aimed at meeting the needs of the employment market and the production sector by improving the performance of training establishments which could play a key role in energizing the private sector, particularly by offering a better match between the training offered with industry requirements.

Thus, Canada has accompanied Tunisia in its development throughout the years, responding to its established priorities. Tunisia has been a model partner of Canadian cooperation, a success of which Canada and Tunisia can be proud. With development assistance as a driving force, the relationship became stronger and more diverse, as much on the political side, as on the economic, cultural and human sides.



Toronto

A Solid Friendship, a Long-lasting Partnership

Tunisia is Canada's oldest partner in North Africa. At the beginning of the 21st century, it is worthwhile to look back at the road traveled by Canada and Tunisia over the last fifty years, the friendship binding the two peoples and the solidity of the long-lasting partnership established between the two countries, as they lead the way to realizing the full potential of this relationship in a fast-changing world.

Political Cooperation

Canadians have built a country based on a profound attachment to democracy, the rule of law, respect for individual rights and pluralism. Canada has, for many years, contributed to international security by emphasizing human security, involving the prevention and settlement of violent conflicts, the protection of civilians during conflicts, and the strengthening of a state's capacity to guarantee the safety of its population. Canada and Tunisia are united in these objectives of peace and security in the world.

As an example, both countries have participated jointly on more than a dozen United Nations' missions and operations around the world including, in particular, the welcome presence of Tunisia in the UNAMIR (Rwanda), under Canadian command. In 1997, Tunisia signed the Ottawa Convention, an international treaty banning anti-personnel mines, and, in 2005, Canada supplied Tunisia with equipment to help it reach its objective of complete mine clearance before the 2010 deadline provided for in the agreement.



Canadian Peacekeeper
Credit: DFAIT

Throughout these last fifty years, many visits and missions have taken place between the two countries, strengthening dialogue and mutual understanding. Close ties have been formed with Canadian provinces, particularly Quebec, and they have seen numerous cooperation agreements become a reality in their respective domains of competence.

The two countries have repeatedly united their voices on the international scene. They sat together on the Security Council and the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. They affixed their signatures to 330 bilateral and international treaties and formed a common front on important subjects such as the Francophonie as well as the question of Palestinian refugees, on which subject Canada chairs the Working Group. More recently, the two countries pronounced themselves in favour of the UNESCO convention on the protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expressions. Finally, in 2005, Canada and Tunisia signed a memorandum of understanding and consultation, paving the way for dialogue and close cooperation on questions of international politics of mutual interest.

Economic Relations

Over the last fifty years, Canada has developed into, and asserted itself as, a highly industrialized country. It has become a world leader in telecommunications, information technology, environmental technology air and rail transport, and energy. It also remains one of the world's biggest producers of many metals and minerals, and possesses the second largest known petroleum and gas reserve. During recent years Canada has become a net exporter of capital and, with exports representing 40 % of its GDP and its proximity to one of the biggest and most competitive markets in the world, the high level of competitiveness of Canadian companies cannot be doubted.



Canada and high
technology

For its part, Tunisia's level of economic development places it amongst the ranks of emerging countries. In its current phase, CIDA recognizes this reality and concentrates on supporting the Tunisian private sector to strengthen the competitiveness of Tunisian companies by favouring exchanges between private operators in both countries. In other respects, in spite of an increase of 57 % in Canadian exports to Tunisia in 2006, and an increase of 113 % in Tunisian exports to Canada, bilateral trade remains modest, although balanced.

The efforts made, however, by Tunisia to improve its competitive position and the opening up of its economy are promising in this area. Recognizing the potential offered by the Tunisian market and through it, neighbouring markets, increasing numbers of Canadian companies are attempting to canvass this market and to create sustainable partnerships. The export of services, another sector of excellence in Canada, is also expanding, with many Canadian companies active in Tunisia, particularly in the energy oil, training and environment sectors.



Oil well

Canada occupies an important place amongst foreign investors in Tunisia. Holding 10th place amongst all categories of investors, Canada is the second highest investor in the hydrocarbon sector. Given the number of Canadian companies that have demonstrated their interest and their capacity for overseas investment through the realization of important infrastructure projects following the build - operate transfer mechanism, the use of this mechanism in Tunisia for the realization of substantial infrastructure projects in areas corresponding to Canadian expertise makes important investments in these sectors possible. In other respects, Canada is a destination of choice for Tunisian investors keen to establish themselves in the North American Free Trade Area. The present decade could indeed see the development of a new element in our bilateral relations, an indisputable sign of their maturity and of the success of Tunisian companies, as well as reciprocal investments and partnerships aimed at regional markets, which constitute other examples of the potential of reinforcement of the economic relations.

Human Relations

Canada was built largely thanks to immigration, and its francophone history is present throughout the country. Nevertheless, Francophone minority communities outside of Quebec have to overcome significant difficulties in order to ensure the continuation of their language and culture. The Government of Canada has adopted a program to promote francophone immigration, aiming at supporting the development of francophone communities across the country. The Tunisian community in Canada consisting of more than ten thousand people, could further expand over the years.

Every year, thousands of Tunisians visit Canada as part of trade missions for family visits or tourism, or to work or study there. In the last case Canada welcomes more than 2,000 Tunisian students, who have chosen to pursue their higher education there. Francophone establishments are particularly sought after, but increasingly students are choosing to pursue their education abroad in English, a demand which Canada is able to meet effectively. The attraction for studying in Canada has grown significantly over the last six years, mainly due to the Education Fair. This important event, organized every autumn by the Canadian Embassy in Tunis, offers Tunisian students the chance to meet representatives of Canadian institutions and to discuss the requirements for entry to Canada with representatives of the immigration service.



The Canadian Embassy's Education Fair in Tunis

Several thousand Canadians live in Tunisia, and there are approximately 15,000 Canadian tourists per year. The potential for growth in Canadian tourism to Tunisia and Tunisian tourism to Canada is still largely unexploited.



From right to left: Mr. Ahmed Chelieb, President of the Tunisia Canada Friendship Association
H.E. Mr. Bruno Picard, Canadian Ambassador and Mr. Faouci Elouani, President of the Tunisia - Canada Chamber of Commerce
Credit: L'Economiste Maghrébin

The existence of several bilateral associations demonstrates the diversity of the links established between Canada and Tunisia. The objective of the Tunisian - Canadian Friendship Association, which was created in Tunisia in 1988, is to maintain and develop the links between both peoples, and to contribute to the promotion of a better understanding between the two countries.

Created in 1998, the Association of Graduates of Canadian Universities organizes, and participates in, several activities which bring together Tunisians who have studied in Canada. This association collaborates closely with the various alumni associations of specific Canadian institutions, organized under the umbrella of their respective Alma Maters.

For its part, the Tunisian - Canadian Chamber of Commerce was created on August 31, 2001 in order to promote economic relations between Tunisia and Canada. It aims at encouraging partnership investment, export, and the exchange of expertise between Tunisian and Canadian operators.

A Tunisian - Canadian Parliamentary Friendship Group was established in April, 2002 and is evidence of the friendly relationship uniting the two countries. This group highlights the relevance of the parliamentary relations existing between Tunisia and Canada and their role in consolidating and diversifying bilateral relations.

Academic Relations

The links between Canadian and Tunisian establishments of higher education are numerous and solid. As well as the availability of Canadian certified training courses in Tunisia one should also note the existence of many international exchange agreements and common educational projects. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada reports 26 such agreements over the last decade. Thirteen Canadian establishments have thus formalized their collaboration with one or more of the sixteen Tunisian establishments involved. These agreements are general or specialized: The sectors involved are, in order of priority, engineering and technology business administration and management, agriculture, forestry and fishing, arts and sciences, social and behavioural sciences and social welfare.

Cultural Relations

Cultural links between the two countries pre-date the establishment of diplomatic relations; a number of Canadian artists have been enticed by the light of Tunisia, while several Tunisian artists have been inspired by the Canadian winter. James Wilson Morrice, an important Canadian painter, who was born in Montreal in 1865, traveled often to Tunisia with his friend Henri Matisse - he died in Tunisia on January 23 1924. In 1994, with the support of generous Canadian benefactors, the tomb where he is buried in Borgel's cemetery was restored.

Other artists have woven durable links with Tunisia more recently. This is true of the writer, Jean-Éthier Blais (1925-1995), who was honoured in 1996 in Hammamet, where he had elected to live; and of the painter, Hanafi, whose naive art is inspired by scenes of daily life in Montreal and Tunisia and who holds regular exhibitions in both countries; and of the writer, Hédi Bouraoui, whose works of poetry have received many awards, in Canada as in Tunisia.

The cultural exchanges between the two countries are also characterized by regular Canadian participation in several annual festivals and events, such as the Journées de la Francophonie, the October music festival in Carthage, and Tunis' Book Fair. Certain events have particularly affected the Tunisian public: The singer Garou before a crowd of 12,000 people at the Carthage Festival in 2004; the singer-songwriter Isabelle Boulay at the same festival in 2005, charming more than 8,000 spectators. Early this year, 2007 the Canadian singer Lynda Thalie appears in Tunisia in a special 50th anniversary show.

Strengthened by these achievements, it is with confidence that Canada and Tunisia look to the future!

Some Landmark Events...

Some Important Dates...

- 1956 Canada recognizes Tunisia's independence
- 1957 Diplomatic relations between Canada and Tunisia are established
- 1961 Accreditation of the 1st Canadian Ambassador to Tunisia
- 1961 President Bourguiba visits Ottawa
- 1964 Signing of the 1st agreement for technical and cultural cooperation
- 1966 The 1st Canadian Embassy is established at 4, Place Virgile, Tunis-Notre-Dame
- 1966 The first Canadian volunteers are sent
- 1968 Mission Chevrier in francophone Africa
- 1968 Visit of President Bourguiba
- 1969 1st Canadian - Tunisian joint commission
- 1969 Signing of the 1st Bilateral Trade Agreement
- 1969 The 1st Embassy of the Tunisian Republic is established in Ottawa



Meeting of the Joint Commission



The Chancery of the Canadian Embassy

- 1970 Visit of Mr. Gérard Pelletier, Minister of Culture
- 1972 Visit of Rear-Admiral Mathwin Davis of Canada's National Defence College
- 1972 Ratification of the 1st Trade Agreement
- 1972 Visit to Canada of Mr. Chedli Klibi Minister of Culture and Information
- 1973 Visit of Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, President of CIDA
- 1975 Signing of an agreement between Canada World Youth and the Ministry of Youth
- 1980 The Chancery moves to 3, rue du Sénégal, Tunis - Belvedere on August 1
- 1982 Creation of a Trade section at the Canadian Embassy in Tunis
- 1982 Trade mission led by Mr. Pierre De Bané Minister for External Relations
- 1982 Signing of a tax agreement concerning double - taxation
- 1984 Visit of Mr. Jean - Luc Pépin, Minister of State for External Relations for Quebec
- 1985 Trade mission led by Mr. Horst A. Schmidt Minister of International Trade for Alberta
- 1986 Visit of Mr. Gil Rémillard, Minister of International Relations for Quebec
- 1987 Visit of Mrs Monique Landry, Minister of International Cooperation and Francophonie
- 1987 Trade mission led by Mr. André Bourbeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs for Quebec



Quebec

- 1988 Creation of the Canadian - Tunisian Friendship Association
- 1993 Visit of Mr. Guy Chevrette, Minister of la Francophonie for Quebec
- 1993 Creation of an immigration service at the Canadian Embassy in Tunis
- 1993 The Tunisian Consulate opens in Montreal



Inauguration of the Immigration Service

- 1994 Visit of Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 1995 Visit of Mrs Sheila Copps, Minister for Canadian Heritage
- 1996 Visit of Mr. Ghislain Dufour, President of the Employers' Council of Quebec
- 1996 Visit of Mrs Denise Carrier-Perreault, Minister responsible for Mines Territories and Forests for Quebec
- 1996 Trade mission consisting of 120 Canadian travel agents affiliated to ACTA

- 1997 Visit of Mr. Marc Lafrenière, Deputy Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- 1997 Visit of Mrs Huguette Labelle, President of CIDA
- 1997 Visit of Mrs Naziha Zarrouk, Minister for Family and the Promotion of Women
- 1997 Visit of Mr. Montasser Ouaili, Secretary of State in charge of information technology, to the Ministerial Conference on the Information Highway for the Francophonie, held in Montreal
- 1997 Visit of Mrs Diane Marleau, Minister for Cooperation and Minister responsible for the Francophonie
- 1997 Visit of Mr. Guy Chevrette, Minister of State for Natural Resources and Minister responsible for the Regions of Quebec
- 1997 Trade mission led by Senator Pierre De Bané and Mrs Diane Gaudet, Deputy Minister of the Environment for Quebec
- 1998 Visit of Mrs Louise Harel, Minister responsible for the Status of Women and the Youth of Quebec
- 1998 Visit of Mr. Abdelbaki Hermassi, Minister for Culture, to attend the meeting of Ministers for Culture, initiated by Mrs Sheila Copps
- 1998 Signing of an agreement on joint film production
- 1998 Creation of the Association of Graduates from Canadian Universities
- 1998 Visit of a parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Gildas Molgat, Speaker of the Senate
- 1998 Visit of Mr. Bernard Thériault, Minister of La Francophonie for New Brunswick
- 1998 The University and Educational Mission of Tunisia, a branch of the Tunisian National Tourism Office, and commercial representation open in Montreal
- 1999 Visit of Mr. M'hamed Ali Bouleymen, Mayor of Tunis, for the meeting of the International Association of Francophone Mayors in Quebec
- 1999 Visit of Mr. Tahar Sioud, Secretary of State for the Foreign Affairs Minister, to the Francophonie Summit held in Moncton
- 1999 Visit of Mr. Jean-Pierre Jolivet, Minister for the Development of the Regions of Quebec
- 1999 Trade mission led by Mr. Pierre Bourque, Mayor of Montreal City, Quebec



Vancouver

- 2000 Visit by Mr. Moncef Ben Abdallah, Minister for Industry, to the Montreal Conference on the challenges for Africa and the Middle East in the globalization of markets
- 2002 Visit of Mr. David Kilgour, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), to co-preside over the regional seminar on the Ottawa Convention
- 2002 Trade mission led by Mrs Pauline Marois, Deputy Prime Minister of Quebec
- 2002 Visit of Mr. Youssef Mokeddem, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, leading a delegation of government representatives
- 2002 Signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in sport
- 2002 Visit of Mrs Rita Dionne-Marsolais, Minister of Energy for Quebec
- 2002 Trade mission led by Mr. Yvon Charbonneau, Member and President of the Tunisia - Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group, to the Carthage Forum on investment
- 2003 Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities mission
- 2003 Canada - Arab Business Council mission led by Mr. Hugh O' Donnell, Vice-President of the Canadian Trade Commission
- 2004 Visit of the Honourable Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons



World Handball Championship
Rades, January, 2005
Credit: www.handzone.net F. Dasriaux

- 2004 Visit of Mr. Abdessattar Ben Nour, Director General Commander of the National Guard
- 2004 Visit of Mr. Jean Charest, Prime Minister of Quebec
- 2005 Visit of Mr. Jacques Saâda, Minister for the Francophonie and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, accompanied by a delegation of Federal Government representatives from Quebec and Ontario, to chair the 13th joint commission

- 2005 Signing of a memorandum of understanding and consultation between Canada and Tunisia
- 2005 Exhibition by the Circle of Artists, Painters and Sculptors of Quebec at the Kheireddine Palace in Tunis.
- 2005 Participation of a delegation of 40 Canadian representatives at the World Summit on the Information society, led by Senator Mark Harb
- 2006 Visit of Mr. Foued Mebazaâ, Speaker of the Chamber of Representatives, accompanied by a delegation of Members of Parliament
- 2006 Visit of Mrs Sheila Fraser, Auditor General of Canada, at the invitation of Mrs Faïza Kéfi President of the Tunisian Revenue Court
- 2006 Visit of Mr. Paul Martin, ex-Prime Minister of Canada, at the invitation of the African Development Bank



Isabelle Boulay performing in Tunis

Ambassadors: Past and Present...

Canadian Ambassadors in Tunis

1961-1964	H.E. Mr. Herbert Brooks-Hill Feaver
1964-1966	H.E. Mr. René Garneau
1966-1969	H.E. Mr. Alfred Pick
1969-1972	H.E. Mr. D'Iberville Fortier
1972-1974	H.E. Mr. Henri Gaudefroy
1974-1977	H.E. Mr. Jacques Gignac
1977-1980	H.E. Mr. Jean-Marcel Touchette
1980-1983	H.E. Mr. Arthur Blanchette
1983-1986	H.E. Mr. Witold Weynerowski
1986-1989	H.E. Mr. Timothy Williams
1989-1993	H.E. Mr. Marius Bujold
1993-1996	H.E. Mr. Michel Roy
1996-1999	H.E. Mr. Arsène Després
1999-2004	H.E. Mr. Jacques Simard
2004-2006	H.E. Mr. Wilfrid Licari
2006-	H.E. Mr. Bruno Picard



H.E. Mr. Alfred Pick presents his credentials to President Bourguiba in 1966
Credit: DFAIT

Tunisian Ambassadors in Ottawa

1957-1960	H.E. Mr. Mongi Slim
1961-1962	H.E. Mr. Habib Bourguiba Jr
1962-1967	H.E. Mr. Taïeb Slim
1967-1969	H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri
1969-1973	H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Hamzaoui
1974-1980	H.E. Mr. Taïeb Slim
1980-1986	H.E. Mr. Rafik Saïd
1986-1988	H.E. Mr. Anouar Berraïss
1988-1989	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Salah Lejri
1989-1991	H.E. Mr. Sadok Bouzaïne
1991-1996	H.E. Mr. Khalifa Hafdi
1996-2000	H.E. Mr. Habib Lazreg
2001-2005	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Saad
2005	H.E. Mr. Abdessalem Hetira

The Embassy of Canada wishes to thank all those who contributed to this brochure.



H.E. Mr. Bruno Picard presents his credentials to President Ben Ali in 2007
Credit: Tunis Afrique Presse

Sources

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Department of Foreign Affairs

and International Trade Canada

Association of Universities and

Colleges of Canada

Tunisia - Canada Chamber of Commerce