

What will the friendship between Canada and the Netherlands look like in the future?

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Canada has long been an important ally and close friend of the Netherlands. Not only do we share some parts of our national history, we also share similar views on international peace and security issues. Our values and the foundation of our societies match: freedom and democracy, equality for all and peace. These shared values have been tested more than once; when the Canadians freed us from German occupation in World War II, or even earlier: shortly after the Dutch golden age, when the Canadians sheltered the freedom seeking Dutch from the British during the American Revolutionary war. This helped our bond grow stronger, as the Dutch started trade with the Canadians. And to this day, the Netherlands is still the second largest investor in Canada.

To elucidate this: even until today the bond between Canada and the Netherlands has remained strong: our shared history and values have been tested and we have overcome every single problem. This resulted in a close cooperation in institutions to make the world a better place, such as NATO, OSCE, OECD and the UN. Often, the Canadians and the Dutch defend a common view. From an economic point of view, the bond is strong as well: both Canada and the Netherlands invest a lot in each other, and are important partners in trade. Our governments even encourage trade between one another when it comes to high-tech sectors, so we can boost our economies, gain more knowledge and become more innovative.

When looking at the future we can already see that our connection is bound to only become stronger than it is today. Both Canada and the Netherlands have signed many treaties together as a result of all the values and interests they have in common. The treaties are covering many different areas, such as the environment, trade, protection and many others, with more to follow in the future. To achieve success in these important matters, both countries are expected to cooperate with and support each other (e.g. changing their participation regarding UN peacekeeping so more people can be sent to help). We have seen this happening in the past and we are certain this will continue to happen in the many years to come. Concerning trade; the flow of high-tech knowledge and products between the two countries will only stimulate further innovation, which will create an even better bond. This stimulation of innovation has already led to the new found ideas and innovations, big and small, that we discovered together. Some of our recent inventions could be joined together to create an even bigger invention (such as the smart bike in the Dutch cities in combination with Dutch technology on traffic regulation). Our bond has also made the world a better place through our close cooperation in the political field.

As mentioned in the preceding sections, all these achievements formed new building blocks, adding up to an already solid foundation of shared history and values. By strengthening this already solid foundation, we can create new opportunities that not only the Canadians and the Dutch, but also for the rest of the world can benefit from. In the last resolution signed by the General Assembly and its

members (70th GA , UN 2015) Resolution A/70/498/Add.1 on the topic: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, shows that in the following years Canada and the Netherlands will be working together on international peacekeeping. This resolution does not only show the growing bond and their subtle distinctions between the Canada and the Netherlands, but also the importance of our cooperation to the world.

We enjoyed this project, as we learned more about our shared history and our view on certain topics. We learned about the differences between our two nations, but far more important: the similarities and the things we stand for.

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What begun a friendship forged by trust, hospitality, and sacrifice has lead to a strong relationship between Canada and the Netherlands, with both countries mutually active in the continuous growth and development of their nation.

In 2010, bilateral trade in services totaled \$2.2 billion for the Netherlands and Canada. The same year, \$961 million was the outcome of Canada's services exports to the Netherlands, while the services imports from the Netherlands to Canada reached \$1.3 billion.

The Netherlands is a qualified source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Canada, as both countries provide millions of dollars to the other in the foreign investment section. Dutch FDI reached \$56.3 billion in 2011, 9.3% of total FDI in Canada. Both countries support the other and provide funds related to the innovation of institutions, as well as startup companies, focused on improving their surrounding.

The Netherlands provides the positioning of products for Canada, allowing the import, distribution, and transport of products across Europe, in a low and cost effective way.

Finally, Canada and the Netherlands both share mutual views on a political and humanitarian aspect. Both are currently active in multiple international judicial institutions like the United Nations, and work hard to continue to give the people freedom.

As around a million people of Dutch descent now living in Canada, and close to 5000 Canadians in the Netherlands, the relationship looks promising.

With the successful partnership in trade and investment, as well as the shared vision on political and humanitarian involvement at an international level, Canada and the Netherlands continue to provide support for each other in a beneficial and sustainable way. Therefore, the friendship of the future looks strong and promising, as both countries plan to look forward into a season of warmth, picnics, and tulips.

Lots and lots of tulips.