



Bilateral trade between India and Canada, both members of the Commonwealth, has been steadily growing fields such as advanced technology, biotechnology, life sciences, and energy. The visits of high-powered delegations from Canada in 2005 and early 2006 were an indication of growing interest on the part of Canadian companies in the Indian market.

Annie Dube, Vice Consul and Trade Commissioner at the Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai is the official responsible for higher education at the Consulate. She believes that Canada has much to offer to India in the field of education and training.

What are areas that hold high potential for cooperation and collaboration between India and Canada?

A: There are many areas. In fact you might be aware that in 2005, Canadian exports to India surpassed 1 billion Canadian dollars. We are very excited about that and are in process of looking for more resources to help improve economic relations, including investments between Canada and India.

We have selected certain priority sectors. Higher education is one of them. Financial services, life sciences, biotechnology, energy, telecom and information

technology are others.

Two big Canadian trade delegations visited India what is the follow up action?

There is a strong commitment from Canada and Canadian provinces. There are ongoing follow-up visits from various Provinces which have been to India, and the companies which joined the missions are developing the contacts they have made here.

What is Canada's cutting edge in education?

Canada has fantastic universities and excellent education programmes across all disciplines, but the fact is they are



not as well known as they should be. We need to profile Canada as an education destination. In the past year or so, several Canadian universities have made visits to India and the number of Indian students studying in Canada has been rising. We will be organizing a major Education Fair in Mumbai in August and the Canadian Education Centre has opened an office in Bangalore.

Canada offers high quality education at competitive costs. Canadian cities are consistently ranked among the best

places in the world to live in, based on factors such as safety, environmental friendliness and cosmopolitan outlook. International students who have graduated from a Canadian university or college have the opportunity to work in Canada for up to one year after they receive their degree or diploma. International students can also work on campus with a work permit.

One area of interest to the academic and research communities in the two countries is the Canada- Indian Science and Technology Agreement signed in November 2005. Under this Agreement, money is available from both India and Canada to increase collaborative research between the two countries in areas such as information & communication technologies, biotechnology, life sciences and nanotechnology.



Tell us how TCF is going to help you

I think this network is really useful. I arrived some months back. I was the only Canadian for my first six months here at the Consulate. It is really helpful to know through this network how it works in Mumbai.