

# Canada Watch

PRACTICAL AND AUTHORITATIVE ANALYSIS OF KEY NATIONAL ISSUES

## Director's introduction

The Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies is proud to introduce this issue of *Canada Watch*, which builds on a special collaboration between Canadian and Indian researchers. The Robarts Centre's mandate emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative research to deepen our understanding of Canada and its place in the world. The current issue of *Canada Watch*, and the underlying collabor-

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ation with the York Centre for Asian Research—another organized research unit of York University—from which it

emerges, embody well the spirit through which the Robarts Centre came into existence.

This issue of *Canada Watch* builds on a keen interest within the Robarts Centre's community for knowledge and research-based reflections on Indo-Canadian relations; our 2012 issue on India focused also on topics linking Canadian Studies to India. Through the

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## CO-EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

# Facing the future together: Exploring new pathways for Canada-India collaborations

Canada and India have long-standing bilateral relationships built on shared traditions of democracy, pluralism, strong interpersonal connections. The two countries have embarked on a process aimed at improving and expanding their bilateral ties. This issue of *Canada Watch* is part of the research conducted by the Canada-India Project for Research and Innovation (CIPRI).

### LONG-STANDING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS

CIPRI aims to promote awareness between two major democracies, Canada and India. Its objective is to promote understanding about multicultural, multi-ethnic, and multilingual societies. CIPRI seeks to improve and expand synergies through academic activities and assist with networking. It promotes

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unconventional and multifaceted thinking by examining challenges and bringing forth new visions and innovative ideas. The academics, scholars, and policy-makers from India and Canada who contributed to this issue of *Canada Watch* provide interdisciplinary approaches and comparative perspectives. Their writings help us understand how to enhance the scope of cooperation and engagement between the two nations. Our aim is to highlight existing

research and collaboration between Canada and India and to articulate the factors underpinning success, as well as to identify bottlenecks and challenges. This publication also recognizes future possibilities and emerging opportunities between Canada and India. Our objective is to bring together ideas to identify partnership opportunities and to develop the appropriate and relevant policies to changing and challenging circumstances.

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This publication attempts to explore how to build better long-term relationships between the two nations. Issues of collaboration around research, resource building, knowledge sharing, and innovative processes are covered in the articles. The writings, generated out of goodwill, collegiality, and blue-sky thinking, explore ways of overcoming challenges effectively, seizing opportunities, and developing them through information sharing. The articles reflect both India's and Canada's principles of democracy and multiculturalism in multilingual societies. Both nations believe in the merits of free trade and a proactive policy of sustainable development.

Canada is a preferred destination for Indian immigrants because of its safe, law-and-order civil society and its educational system. Indian communities have played a critical role in the life of all political parties in Canada. Today, Canada has several provincial and federal politicians from the Indo-Canadian community. Indian immigration to Canada over the last 60 years has made a significant contribution to the transformative goal of Canadian multiculturalism. Immigration is seen through a positive lens for supporting diversity as a foundational part of modern Canada. Many experts believe that the Indian diaspora is unique because of the skills, education levels, and strong work ethic of Indian immigrants. It could be said that these characteristics have enabled them to integrate quickly into Canadian society. In addition to being self-organized, they are often able to assist each other in the long and sometimes difficult settlement process.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS

India and Canada have a long history of scientific and technological collaboration, which includes working on specific areas of research including such global issues as climate change and infectious disease control. The India-Canada Collaborative Industrial Research &

Development Program was established in 2017. Space and nuclear technologies constitute a significant collaboration between the two nations. A review of the history and status of these projects suggests that future partnerships in projects related to nanotechnology, biotechnology, and space research, among others, are very likely. Other areas of common interest include technologies for social development, in such areas as green technology, water technology, and agricultural technology. Although India is a developing nation, it has invested heavily in Canada over the last 20 years. India's gross domestic product is still much lower than Canada's, but in overall terms India has a very large economy today. By 2030, the Indian economy is expected to be ranked among the top three in the world. Since 2016, two-way trade between India and Canada has increased by 22 percent, but it is still below what can be achieved. It is expected that Indian and Canadian agencies will continue to work together and reap benefits at many levels.

India and Canada do not compete against each other, but rather complement each other. However, there is an urgent need to inject more energy and commitment into the relationship. The articles in this issue of *Canada Watch* provide valuable and timely insight into the contours of India and Canada, highlighting the strong complementarities between the two nations and beyond. The authors touch upon various aspects of the relationship and provide insight into diverse issues. However, they also indicate that the current level of interaction is far below its potential. Areas of challenge and opportunity are discussed and analyzed in the articles. It is our hope that this CIPRI publication, covering different dimensions and shared perspectives, will help promote the synergies in Canada's ties with India for the benefit of both nations. 🍁



Canada India Project for Research and Innovation inaugural symposium, "Facing the Future Together: Exploring New Pathways for Canada-India Collaborations," October 13, 2017.