

The Harper government's unabashed diplomatic support for recent Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon follows from a long history of preferential Canadian political and trade policies aimed at aiding and abetting Israeli apartheid.

- The Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA), which came into effect in 1997, is the only free trade pact the Canadian government maintains with any country outside of the Western hemisphere. Currently, the bilateral trade volume stands at roughly \$1 billion and is expanding at a fast pace.
- The Canada-Israel Research and Development Fund (CIIRDF), signed in 1994, helps to strengthen Canadian ties with the Israeli economy. The CIIRDF was renewed during then-Deputy Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert's April 2005 visit to Canada. Olmert is now Prime Minister. Through CIIRDF, the Canadian and Israeli governments provide seed-money to subsidize and encourage joint Israeli-Canadian R&D partnerships in cutting-edge technologies. Over the past three years, the CIIRDF has partnered 200 firms, bringing in considerable returns for Israeli and Canadian companies.
- During Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's April 2005 visit to Canada, he joined Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty in signing an Ontario-Israel Memorandum of Understanding. The government of Ontario and Israel have each committed approximately \$1-million to this agreement, which aims to facilitate at least a dozen joint economic projects.



*Co-signing of Ontario Israel Memorandum of Understanding by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and current Israel prime minister Ehud Olmert at Queen's Park (April 2005) ([www.cjnews.com](http://www.cjnews.com)).*