

Home Contact Us Newsletters Site Map SEARCH Feed



Americas Society Website

Uniting opinion leaders to exchange ideas and create solutions to the challenges of the Americas today



Council of the Americas Website

Home > Publications > News of the Americas

- Research & Analysis**
- Americas Quarterly
- Exclusive Interviews
- Hemispheric Updates
- News & Views
- News of the Americas
- Papers & Reports
- Viewpoints Americas
- Weekly Roundup
- Program Materials**
- Program Summaries
- Speeches
- On the Record**
- Articles & Op-Eds
- Congressional Testimony
- Congressional Updates
- Multimedia**
- Podcasts
- Webcasts
- AS/COA News**
- Announcements
- Communication Materials
- In the News
- Press Releases

## Canada's Latin American Ties

Carlos Macias  
June 12, 2008

- Email
- Print
- Share



Chilean President Bachelet and Canadian Prime Minister Harper met this week in Ottawa.

In the last month, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's administration has scored major commercial deals with Peru and Colombia, and celebrated its successful Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Chile. Harper's administration has pursued a policy of reengagement with Latin America, seeking to support development in the region. "The Canadian experience shows that, over the long term, there is really no better way to boost living standards than with free trade," Harper said in a November 2007 [interview](#) with *Americas Quarterly*.

During this week's visit by Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to Canada, the two leaders **celebrated** the tenth anniversary of the countries' bilateral FTA and signed additional agreements. Harper called the pact a **"a model of successful partnership** in our hemisphere." Trade in goods between Chile and Canada grew 226 percent over the past decade, reaching \$2.34 billion last year. In an effort to replicate the Canadian-Chilean success, Harper's government is betting on new deals with other Latin American countries.

Peru's new FTA with Canada, signed on May 29, has supported the Andean country's growing presence in global markets by securing a commercial partner to maintain its **enviable** GDP growth: 9.2 percent in the first quarter of 2008 alone. It is **expected** that Canadian agricultural and beef industries will gain immediate access to Peruvian markets. On the flip side, Peruvian dairy products, poultry, and refined sugar will enter Canada almost duty-free.

Canada and Colombia have also moved toward **solidifying their trade partnership**. Officials from both countries **completed negotiating** an FTA on June 7. The deal must be ratified by legislative bodies from both countries in order to take effect. If the deal wins approval, Colombian farmers will **benefit** with tariff reductions on products including beef, flowers, sugar, and ethanol.

The completed negotiations come at a time when a U.S.-Colombia trade pact has stalled in U.S. Congress. Although U.S. markets have historically been the main recipients of Latin American exports, obstacles to the passage of U.S. trade deals in recent months—including with Colombia and Panama—opens the door for Canada to improve ties with Latin America. As the *Financial Times* reports, "While Washington's efforts to make trade inroads

## Upcoming Programs

- Jul 10 [2008 Latin American Cities Conference: São Paulo, Brazil](#)  
São Paulo
- Aug 6 [2008 Latin American Cities Conference: Santiago, Chile](#)
- Aug 8 [2008 Latin American Cities Conference: Montevideo, Uruguay](#)

[Calendar and Registration](#)

## Past Programs

- Jun 23 [Private Luncheon: Luciano Coutinho, President Of the Brazilian Development Bank](#)  
New York
- Jun 18 [Launch: Estado de Derecho, Crecimiento Económico y Prosperidad](#)  
Bogota
- Jun 18 [2008 Latin American Cities Conference: Bogota, Colombia](#)  
Bogota

## Newsletters

AS/COA provides up-to-date analysis through *News & Views*, the monthly policy e-newsletter, and the Weekly Roundup, a summary of the latest news stories covering the Americas.

[Click here to sign up for these free newsletters.](#)

## Americas Quarterly

in Latin America have stumbled lately, Canada has quietly moved to **steal a march.**"

Ottawa hopes to become less reliant on the slowing U.S. economy. After a **weak first quarter performance** in 2008—including growing unemployment, negative GDP growth, and rising inflation—Canada has more motives than ever to strengthen commercial ties with new hemispheric partners and is exploring FTAs with **Panama**, the **Dominican Republic**, the **Caribbean Community**, and the **Central American Four** (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua).

Send questions and comments for the editor to:  
[ascoa.online@as-coa.org](mailto:ascoa.online@as-coa.org).

See more in: **Chile, Southern Cone & Brazil, Canada, North America, Peru, Andean Region, Trade & NAFTA**

[Publications](#) | [Programs](#) | [Resources](#) | [Programs](#)  
| [Working Groups](#) | [Media Guide](#) | [About](#) |  
[Members](#) |  
[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Join](#) | [Site](#)  
[Map](#) | [Calendar](#) | [AS/COA Online](#)



[Click here for more information](#) ►