



Bilateral ‘Snapshot’ of Pakistan-Canada Relations

Background Briefing Prepared for

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I.) INTRODUCTION

This paper provides a snapshot of the current state of Canada-Pakistan relations. It outlines some basic descriptors to illustrate observable and quantifiable aspects of the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Canada, specifically isolating trade, culture, tourism, migration, and academic linkages. Where useful, it offers India, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh as comparators to situate the bilateral relationship in the context of ‘northern’ South Asia. The information was gathered from a variety of different sources, mostly publicly available statistics from websites; however assistance from key government ministries and organizations was required for some specific information.

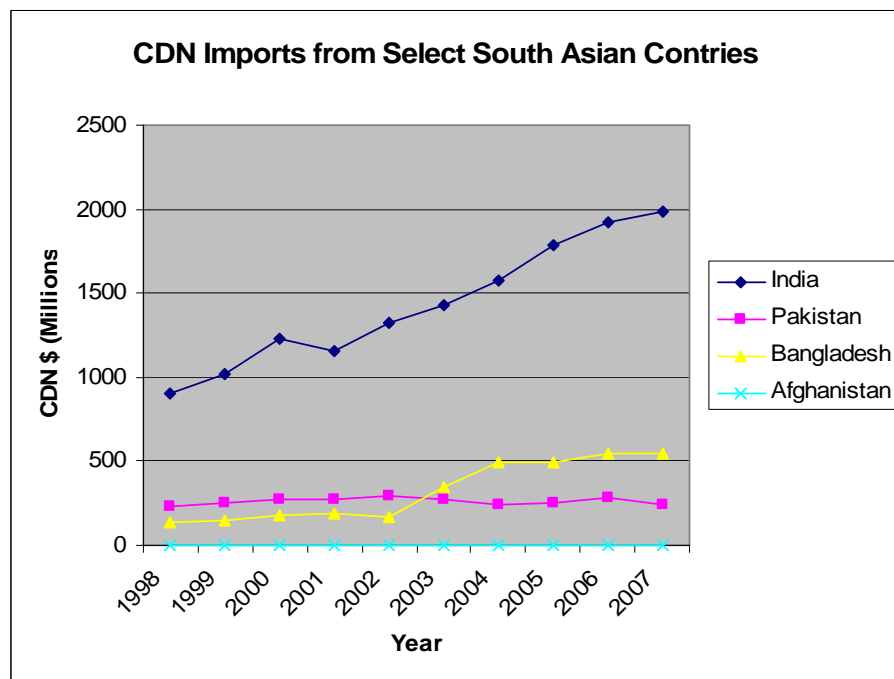
Following the descriptive findings are some observations based on the research in support of **Common Challenges, Shared Opportunities**. Maps as well as a select bibliography on Canada-Pakistan relations are offered as a point of reference for the use of participants.

II.) VITAL STATISTICS

Figure 1¹

Canada-Pakistan Trade Relation:

The value of the bilateral trade relationship between Pakistan and Canada was C\$693,139,000 in 2007.² As figure 1

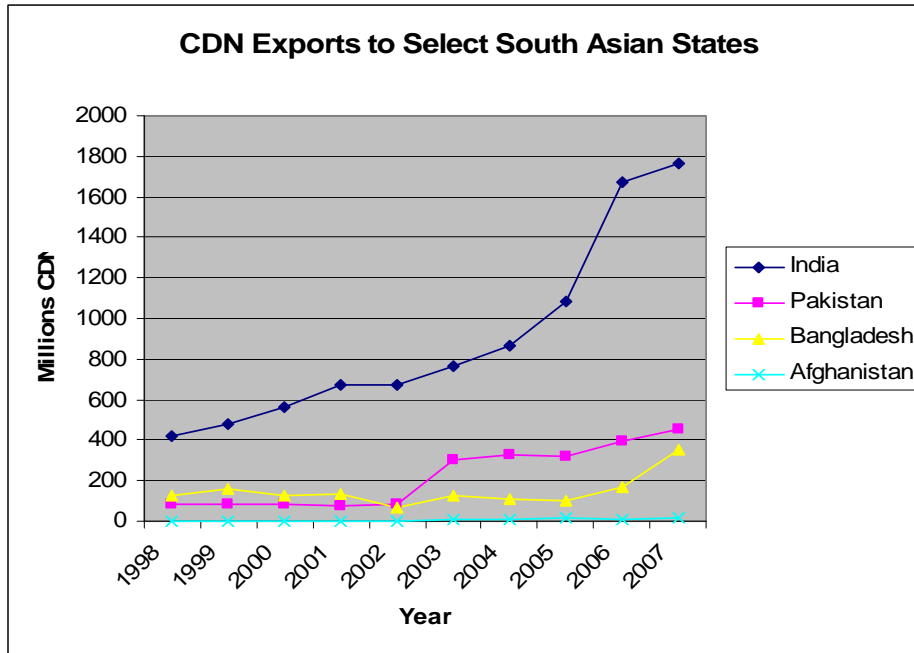


illustrates, Canadian imports from Pakistan have been relatively stable over the last decade. The value of these imports has been charted with India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan to offer a snapshot of Canadian imports from ‘northern-South Asia.’

Figure 2 below illustrates the value of Canadian exports to the same countries. Canadian exports to Pakistan increased considerably in

2002 and have been growing ever since. An industry portrait follows the balance of trade below, identifying the top ten industries in the bilateral trade relationship. With respects to the bilateral investment relationship, statistics were not available. The confidentiality of the bilateral investment relationship suggests that the investment figures are small. Moreover, publicising details may reveal the identities of a small number of investors in Pakistan and Canada.

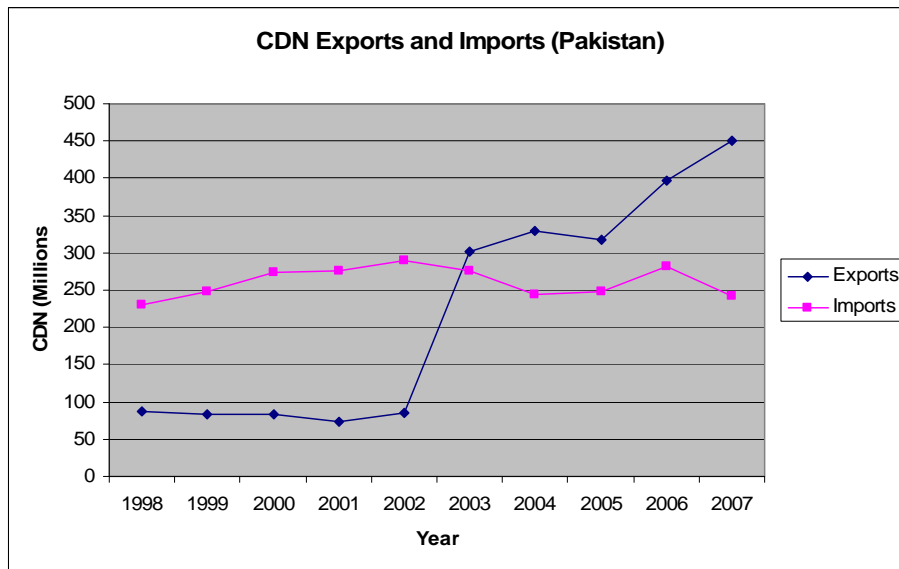
Figure 2³



Balance of Trade:

Figure 3 strips away the regional sample countries to illustrate the balance of trade between Canada and Pakistan. As is evident, Canada currently has a trade surplus with Pakistan stemming from a rapid increase in exports in the year 2002 and a relatively consistent import trend. This hike in exports is largely because of the introduction of oilseeds (excluding soybean) export to Pakistan in 2002 which quickly became the dominant export in the trade relationship.⁴

Figure 3⁵



Industry:

Using data from Statistics Canada taken through Industry Canada, the top ten industries of interest for exporters to Pakistan from Canada and their 2007 dollar figure are:

Table 1

Industry	2007 Value (C\$ million)
A.) Oilseeds (excluding soybean)	203.56
B.) Iron and Steel Mills and Ferro-Alloy Manufacturing	36.05
C.) Dry Pea and Bean Farming	29.72
D.) Other Industrial Machinery Manufacturing	27.97
E.) Pump and Compressor Manufacturing	26.97
F.) Coal Mining	19.22
G.) Navigational, Measuring, Medical and Control Instruments Manufacturing	10.90
H.) Recyclable Metal Wholesaler-Distributors	10.31
I.) Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment Manufacturing	7.70
J.) Other Recyclable Material Wholesaler-Distributors	7.01

Figure 4

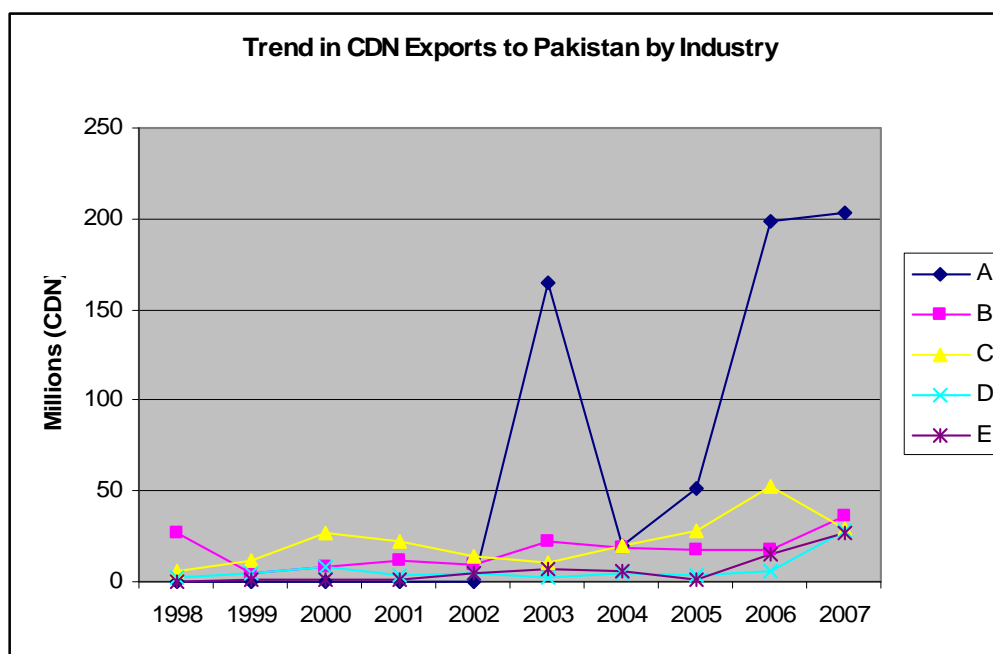


Figure 4 above plots the trend in Canadian exports to Pakistan by industry for the top five industries listed in Table one. To simplify, the industries have been given an alphabetic code. In the above, line “A” represents “oilseeds (excluding soybeans); line “B” represents Iron and Steel Mills and Ferro-Alloy Manufacturing, and so forth.

The top ten industries for Pakistani exporters to Canada summarized in Table 2 and Figure 5:

Table 2

Industry	2007 Value (C\$ million)
K.) Curtain and Linen Mills	82.18
L.) Men's and Boy's Cut and Sew Clothing Manufacturing	25.95
M.) Hosiery and Sock Mills	22.03
N.) Broad-Woven Fabric Mills	17.77
O.) Women's and Girl's Cut and Sew Clothing Manufacturing	17.36
P.) Other Cut and Sew Clothing Manufacturing	9.23
Q.) Carpet and Rug Mills	8.62
R.) Clothing Accessories and Other Clothing Manufacturing	7.27
S.) Flour Milling and Malt Manufacturing	6.76
T.) Sporting and Athletic Goods Manufacturing	4.95

Figure 5



As was the case above, the top five Pakistani industries were given alphabetic codes (K – O) corresponding with the industries listed in Table 2.

Canada-Pakistan Foreign Aid Relationship:

In terms of foreign aid, some sources suggest that Ottawa means to increase its non-military assistance to Pakistan to C\$50-60 million, aimed mainly at local government, basic healthcare for girls, and primary education.⁶ The official Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) statistics¹ for bilateral aid in 2007/2008 was C\$25.3 million.⁷ Besides CIDA, The International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) has been involved in dozens of projects in Pakistan since the early 1980s, covering diverse topics including women-to-women linkages across Kashmir, internet accessibility programs in the Northern provinces, health programs, education, and human rights.⁸ Multilateral assistance is difficult to quantify, as it can take many different forms and be funneled through many different international organizations of an official or NGO nature. CIDA does not report on its multilateral contributions. Ottawa has revised its international aid funding in February, 2009, focusing 80% of its total bilateral aid on 20 key countries/areas.⁹ Northern South Asia is well represented in these new priorities, with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh being targeted specifically.¹⁰

Pakistan-Canada People to People Linkages:

The people to people link between Canada and Pakistan has been strengthening over time. Table 3 illustrates Canada's stock of foreign born population by their country of birth, isolated for the same four countries used in the Trade section. In the decade between 1996 and 2006, the stock of Pakistani-Canadians has more than tripled.¹¹ The figures describe foreign-born Canadians only and do not capture second/third generation Canadians of South Asian ancestry.

Table 3

Stock of Canada's Immigrant Population by Place of Birth

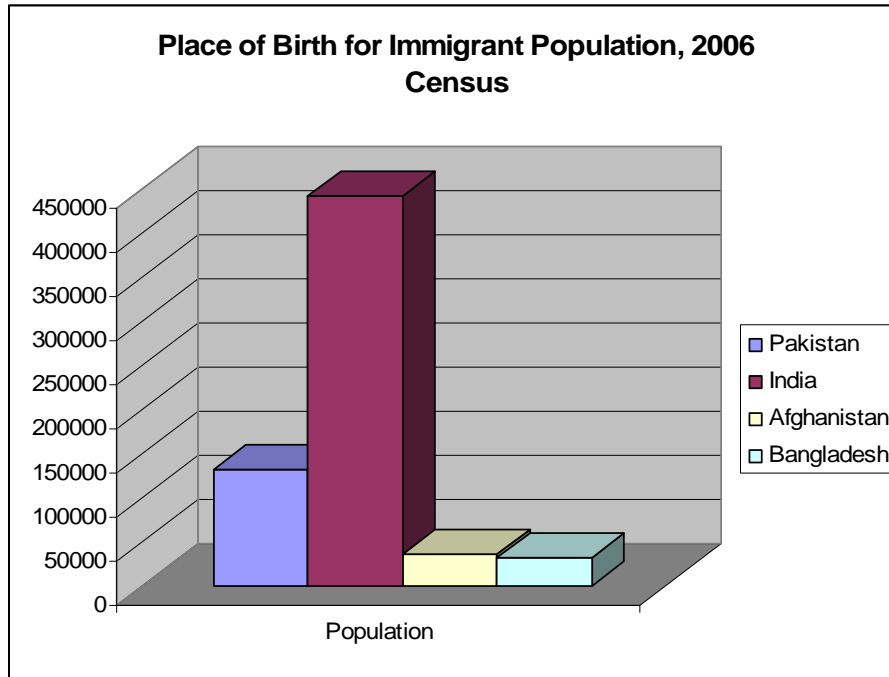
Source Country	1991	1996	2001	2006
Pakistan	19760	34500	75650	133280
Afghanistan	4215	9605	19925	36165
India	156830	224655	314545	443690
Bangladesh	4325	9540	19650	33230

With a population of 1,028,610,328 India has just over 7.5 times Pakistan's population (133,652,121)¹¹ based on each country's respective 2001 census. If this is taken into consideration of immigration flows to Canada, there are proportionally many more Pakistanis in Canada than Indians. Indeed, Pakistan entered the list of top ten sources of immigrants to Canada in 1995, and rapidly became the 3rd and 4th place source of immigrants as tables 4 - 6 illustrate. According to the Canada's 2006 Census, Pakistan has contributed 57,630 "Recent Immigrants," where recent immigrant is defined as a person who immigrated between January 1, 2001 and Census Day in 2006.¹² People who self-identify as South Asians populate Canada in excess of 1.2 million, according to Statistics Canada.¹³ Indeed, South Asians as a visible group have become

¹ Official CIDA statistics do not reflect funds given through regional or multilateral organizations. It covers the sum of disbursements from CIDA's programs, Canadian partnership programs, and humanitarian assistance.

¹¹ The statistics provided in Table 3 and Figures 4 and 5 reflect official census statistics, based on respondents who self-identify as originating from Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Bangladesh.

Figure 6



the largest (though diverse) visible minority group in Canada, surpassing Chinese in 2006.¹⁴ Though self-identified Pakistanis in Canada numbered 133,280 officially, best estimates of the true figure of Pakistanis in Canada place the number much closer to 150,000.

Table 4

Pakistan's Ranking in Canada's Top Ten Sources of Immigrants¹⁵

Year	Place	Number
1995	8 th	4,679
1996	6 th	8,575
1997	5 th	12,189
1998	4 th	8,458
1999	3 rd	9,587
2000	3 rd	14,878
2001	3 rd	15,980
2002	3 rd	14,666
2003	4 th	12,632
2004	4 th	13,900
2005 ^{III}	--	--
2006 ^{IV}	4 th	-

Table 5

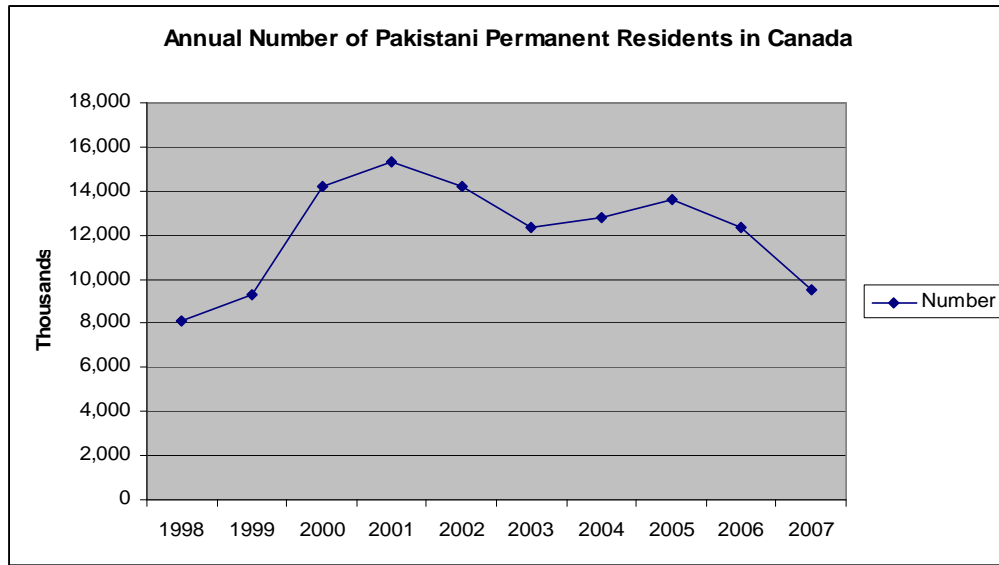
Canadian Permanent Residents of Pakistani Origin, Ten Year Trend¹⁶

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number	8,089	9,303	14,201	15,354	14,172	12,351	12,795	13,575	12,329	9,547

^{III} Information not available

^{IV} Based on 2006 Census (Canada)

Figure 7



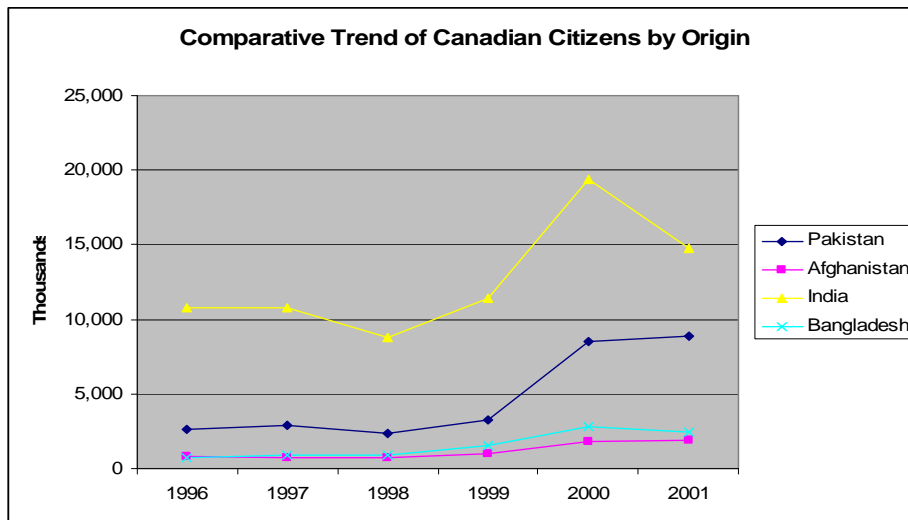
Not only do thousands of Pakistanis come to Canada annually, thousands of Pakistanis become Canadians annually as well. Table 6 below illustrates the number of people who acquired Canadian citizenship by their country of origin for the period of 1996 – 2001.^v

Table 6

Acquisition of Canadian Citizenship by Country of Origin¹⁷

	Pakistan	Afghanistan	India	Bangladesh
1997	2,867	727	10,766	882
1998	2,394	685	8,804	943
1999	3,226	995	11,446	1,560
2000	8,478	1,802	19,402	2,767
2001	8,904	1,864	14,788	2,434

Figure 8



^v Data is not readily available from the 2006 Census for Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Thus, I have gone only as far as reliable data for all countries could be found.

Religion:

Pakistan and Canada are also linked through the practice of Islam. While approximately 95% of Pakistan is Muslim (75% Sunni, 20% Shia)¹⁸, Islam is also a religion of growing importance in Canada. In the ten year period 1991-2001, the Muslim population of Canada increased by 129% to 579,640, approximately 2% of the national population at the time.¹⁹ According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Muslim population in Canada prior to 1986 was extremely small, recent immigrants to Canada who self identify as Muslims now comprise approximately 18% of all new immigrants, surpassed only by Christians.²⁰ Besides changing the religious make-up of Canada, this influx of diversity also changes the cultural tapestry of the still developing Canadian nation.

Academic:

In terms of academic linkages, Pakistan is a small but significant source country for international students studying in Canadian post-secondary institutions. In the ten-year period between 1998 and 2007, Pakistan has hovered between the 10th and 16th largest source of foreign students to Canada.²¹ International students are of great importance to Canadian post-secondary institutions, with foreign student enrolment accounting for approximately 25% of enrolment growth in the 2004/2005 academic year.²² Citizenship and Immigration Canada tracks statistics for sources of international students, however it does not provide an aggregate figure for total stock of Pakistani students in Canada as the numbers for female students were not sufficiently large to be included in their annual report. Table 7 below offers the number of Male students from Pakistan who have been issued a student visa. This point is important, as it does not refer specifically to post-secondary education but rather anyone who was issued a student visa to come to Canada. Table 7 shows the approval rates for Pakistani nationals seeking student visas in Canada, with Figure 9 graphing the percentages visually.

Table 7

Student Visas Issued/Not Issued to Pakistani Nationals with Approval Rates^{VI}

Year	Visas Approved	Visas Rejected	Total Approval Rate
2000	393	918	30%
2001	396	693	36%
2002	275	324	46%
2003	337	333	50%
2004	324	193	63%
2005	363	218	62%
2006	390	287	58%
2007	386	489	44%
2008	452	366	55%

^{VI} Data received by special request to Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Figure 9

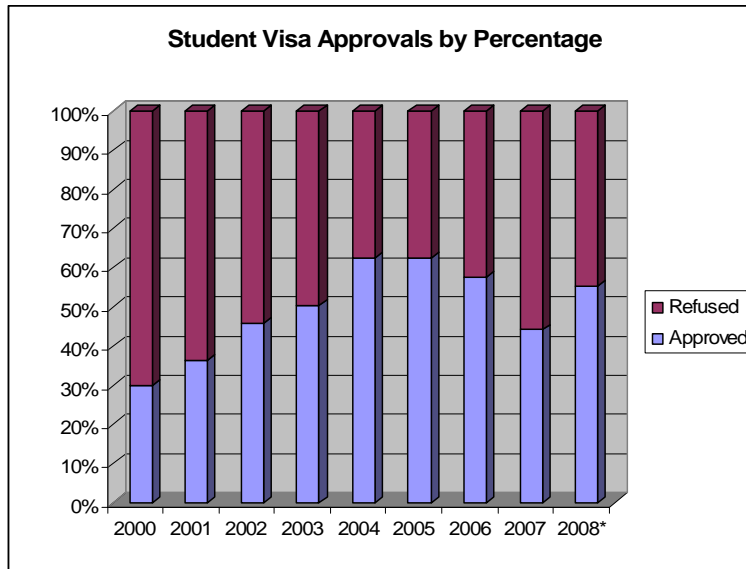


Table 8²³

Stock of Male Pakistani Students in Canada, 5 Year Trend^{VII}

Gender/Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Male	696	1122	1191	1237	1119	1079	1039	1031	1100	1162

As Table 8 and Figure 9 illustrate above, a very large portion of students (some who have been admitted to Canadian institutions with funding) are being rejected. Comparable rejection rates for students from the United States and Europe are less than 5%.

Tourism:

Tourism is an important aspect of relationship building. Due to the size of the Pakistani population in Canada, bilateral travel is important for business linkages, family connections, and for the economic and cultural/social benefits of tourism. Table 9 and Figure 10 on the next page show the number of overnight arrivals in Canada of Pakistani nationals as well as overnight arrivals of Canadian nationals to Pakistan.

It is important to note the figures above do not reflect final-trip statistics, as the Canadian Tourism Commission does not track that particular figure. These figures are rough, as it is impossible to disentangle how many people may be dual citizens travelling with different passports, or how many may be first time visitors on vacation or business.

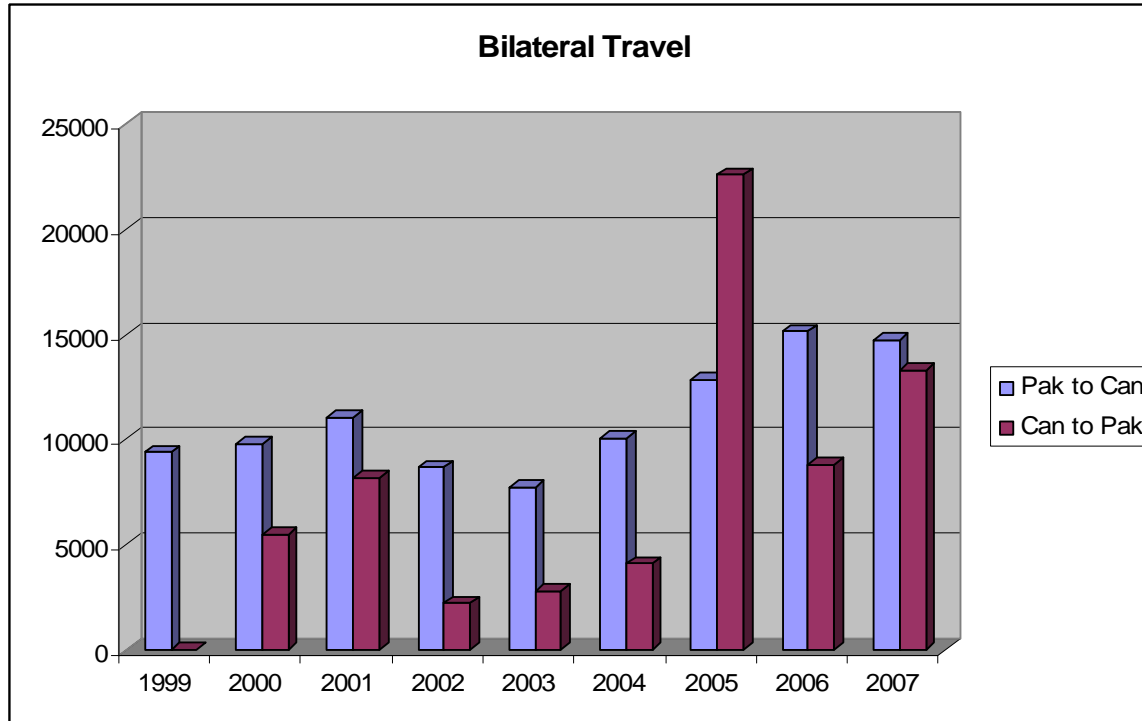
^{VII} This information, taken from Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s Immigration and Permanent/Temporary Residents annual publication, summarized source countries of students studying in Canada in two ways. A.) By total number; B.) by gender. In terms of total numbers, Pakistan was not significant enough to make it into the report. When analyzed by gender however, Pakistan was a significant source of male students and thus the numbers were available.

Table 9

Overnight Arrivals at Frontiers of Pakistani Tourists to Canada and Canadian Tourists to Pakistan^{VIII}

Year	Pakistanis to Canada	Canadians to Pakistan
1999	9384	--
2000	9822	5500
2001	11037	8200
2002	8688	2200
2003	7756	2800
2004	10067	4100
2005	12848	22600
2006	15141	8800
2007	14745	13300

Figure 10



* The spike in Canadians travelling to Pakistan in 2005 is likely explained by the increase in foreign aid and associated humanitarian travel during the 2005 Earthquake.

III.) OBSERVATIONS

1.) Trade and Investment:

- Bilateral relationship is small

^{VIII} Data received by special request to Canada Tourism Commission.

- It emphasizes a few dominant industries in trading, notably oil seeds.
- Consideration is being given on both sides on ways to boost bilateral trade. Pakistani officials have raised the possibility of a bilateral FTA

2.) **People-To-People Linkages**

- People linkages are already large and important pillars on which future bilateral relations might be developed
- Educational exchanges and recruitment of Pakistani/Canadian students could be improved
- Visa issuances on both sides are problematic

3.) **Unexplored Issues**

- Canadian development and military engagement in southern Afghanistan, with promised troop commitment until 2011.
- Canadian commitment to borders specifically between northern Pakistan and southern Afghanistan
- India in Canadian and Pakistani foreign policy

IV: CONCLUSION

The areas this paper focussed on covered vital statistics in the economic, academic, and demographic relationship with the view to provide a snapshot of the status quo. All of these areas require further discussion and analysis, and are not meant to limit the scope of the conference proceedings in any way. Other topics, including the regional security nexus, anti-terrorism, and non-proliferation agendas are fundamental and could offer tangible areas for future bilateral cooperation between Ottawa and Islamabad.

V: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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VI: MAPS OF CANADA AND PAKISTAN

Pakistan:



Canada:



VII: SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ENDNOTES

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