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Canada-Muslim  
CANADA KEEN TO DISCUSS MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN ISSUES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Canada is interested to participate in discussions on Muslim-Christian issues, its Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) David Kilgour said today.

"We are absolutely committed to diversity and freedom of all religions," he told reporters at the Canada Day reception here.

Currently, there are 600,000 Canadian Muslims but the number was growing quickly, he said.

Kilgour said he had discussed various topics, including the Muslim-Christian issue, with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during their hour-long discussions at Dr Mahathir's office today.

He said Dr Mahathir was the key person to the dialogue on the issue.

He expressed the hope that Dr Mahathir would be able to visit Canada next year.

Dr Mahathir discussed current issues on Islam during his meeting with the Head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope John Paul II at Vatican City early this month.

Earlier, Kilgour visited Cyberjaya, which he described as a remarkable undertaking that fostered a knowledge-based economy in Malaysia.

He said his country was also a leader in the Information and Communication Technology of the new century and there seemed to be much room for cooperation between Kuala Lumpur and Ottawa.

Kilgour said he also spent time at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang, discussing ways to improve linkages between Malaysia and Canada, post-secondary institutions, research centres and the private sector.

He said Canada wished to see a surge in Malaysian students studying in Canadian universities.

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