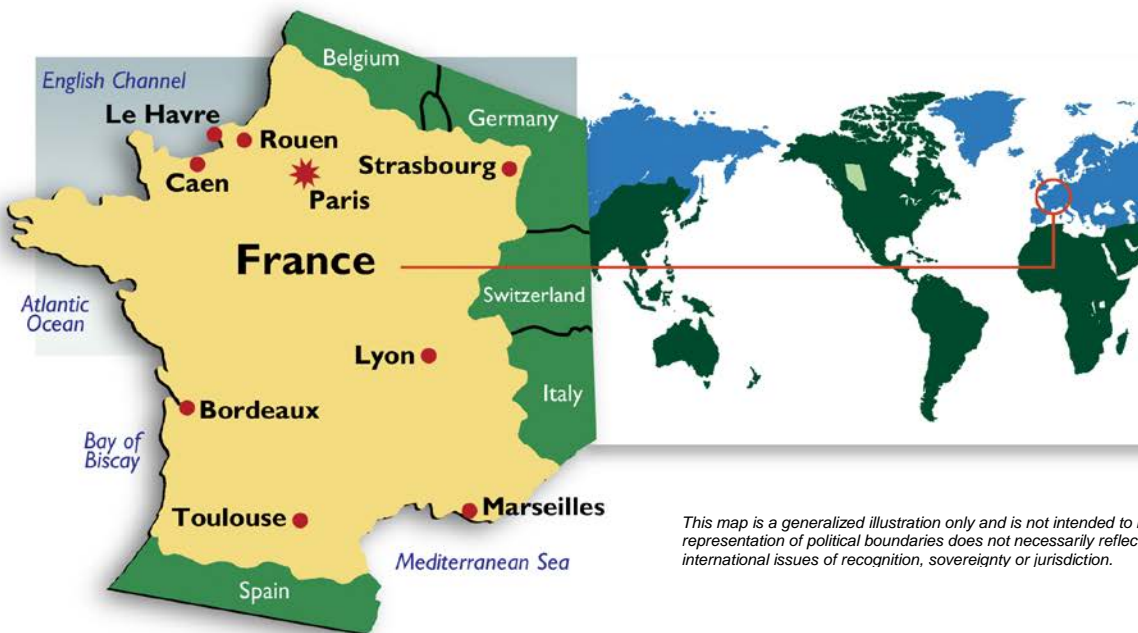


# France - Alberta Relations



*This map is a generalized illustration only and is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries does not necessarily reflect the position of the Government of Alberta on international issues of recognition, sovereignty or jurisdiction.*

## PROFILE

**Capital:** Paris

**Population:** 64.3 million (2013 est.)

**Language:** French

**Government:** Republic

**Head of State:** President François Hollande (elected in May 2012)

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Manuel Valls (appointed in April 2014)

**Currency:** Euro, CAD\$1.00 = €0.63, €1.00 = CAD\$1.55 (March 2014)

**GDP:** US\$2.7 trillion (2013)

**GDP (PPP):** US\$2.4 trillion (2013 est.)

**GDP per Capita (PPP):** US\$37,556 (2013 est.)

**GDP Growth Rate:** 0.1% (2008-2012 avg.)

**Inflation:** 1.9% (2008-2012 avg.)

**Unemployment:** 10.4% (2013 est.)

**Key Industry Sectors:** machinery, chemicals, automobiles, metallurgy, aircraft, electronics, textiles, food processing, tourism.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- French was the first European language spoken in Alberta.
- France is a member of the G7 and one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- In 2011, France hosted the G8 Summit in Deauville and the G20 Summit in Cannes.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- In 2008, former Premier Ralph Klein received France's highest decoration, the Legion of Honour, for his work in fostering ties between Alberta and France.
- In September 2005, Alberta hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), during which Premier Klein and Speaker Kenneth Kowalski received medals of the Ordre de la Pléiade, a prestigious honour conferred on individuals who have contributed to the promotion of the French language and culture in their respective jurisdictions.
- In June 2012, Edmonton hosted the 17th Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

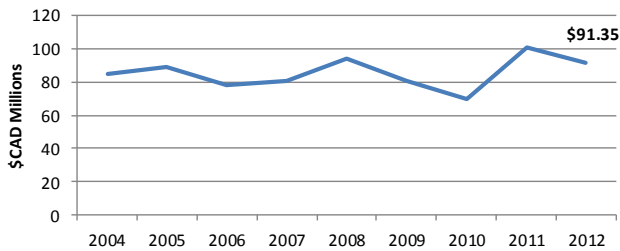
## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2009 to 2013, Alberta's exports to France averaged CAD\$84 million per year, consisting mainly of machinery, horse meat, and woodpulp.
- Alberta's direct imports from France averaged CAD\$263.6 million per year between 2009 and 2013. Top imports included precision instruments, alcoholic beverages, and machinery. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Canadian investment in France in 2012 was valued at CAD\$4.6 billion and French Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Canada was \$14.8 billion (2012).
- France is the European Union's (EU) leading agricultural exporter, accounting for about 17% of all agricultural land within the EU-27 market.

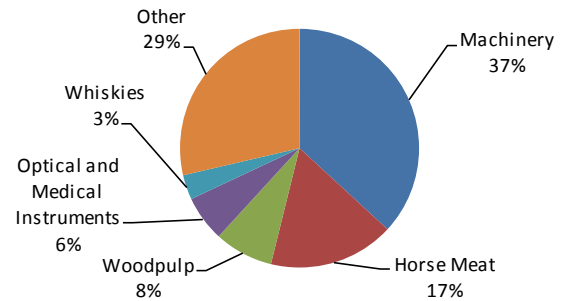
## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- A few aerospace and defence firms are operating in, partnering with, interested in and/or supplying to Alberta, including SAFRAN's MORPHO, Airbus, Eurocopter, Dassault Aviation, Thales and the European Space Agency.

## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to France 2004-2013



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to France (2009-2013 Yearly Average CAD\$84 Million)



- In June 2013, 11 Alberta organizations were featured in the Paris Air Show with 7 representatives on site.
- Signed agreements between the National Research Council and Airbus and Eurocopter; and the recent EU FP7 Coordinated Support Action Plan are generating discussions for international cooperation in aerospace research and technological development with Canadian/Alberta organizations.
- With one of the largest medical technology markets in Europe, France is a priority market for Alberta's health technology companies.
- France offers excellent opportunities in information and communications technologies in areas such as enterprise solutions, wireless applications and health. Alberta companies are active in France, among them, SMART Technologies and Axia Netmedia which both have offices in France.
- Alberta company Micralyne and France-based Sercel established a collaborative partnership in 2013 to pursue advanced sensor fabrication in Alberta. This partnership will enable companies from Alberta and abroad to develop advanced sensors for hydrocarbon exploration, pipeline leak detection and infrastructure monitoring.

### ENERGY

- The earliest documented oil sands mining operation was set up in 1745 in northeastern France, with refining capabilities added in 1857.
- France is the 12th largest consumer of oil in the world at 1.74 million barrels per day (bbl/d) (2012).
- As the fourth largest gas market in Europe, France imports over 98% of its gas consumption under long-term contracts and is the third-largest importer of liquefied natural gas in the European Union, after Spain and the UK (2012). Still, gas accounted for only 14.4% of final energy consumption, far below the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Europe average of 24.5%.

- France is the world's largest nuclear power generator on a per capita basis and has 58 nuclear power plants producing 75% of the country's electricity. Due to very low generation costs, France is the world's largest net electricity exporter. French president Hollande, however, has committed to reducing the nuclear share in power generation to 50% by 2025.
- France-based Total E&P has an oil sands research centre in Calgary which focuses on environmental performance, owns a 50% interest in the Surmont oil sands project (with phase 2 production anticipated for 2015), and has a 50% operating interest in the Northern Lights oil sands project, acquired through the purchase of Calgary-based Synenco Energy Inc., in 2008.
- Total also has a 38.25% interest in the Joslyn oil sands project and in December 2011, the company received its Order in Council from the Government of Canada to construct, operate, and reclaim the project. Total expects production to come online by the end of the decade. This is Total's first mining project. Total also obtained government approval and signed a Final Investment Decision in October 2013 to acquire a 39.2% stake in the Ford Hills Mining Project.
- Calgary-based Sterling Resources has onshore oil interests in France, particularly in the Paris basin and Quittaine basin (southwest France).
- In previous years, Alberta companies have participated in France's annual Pollutec Conference.

### AGRI CULTURE

- In 2013, Alberta agri-food exports to France totalled \$23.4 million, consisting mostly of horse meat (\$9 million), alcoholic beverages (\$4.6 million), pet food (\$4.5 million) and oilseed (\$3.8 million).
- France is Alberta's second largest market for horse meat exports.

### EDUCATION

- More than CAD\$8.8 million was provided in joint Alberta-Canada funding to support French language post-secondary programs in 2009-2010.
- In 2012-2013, 38,245 students were enrolled in French immersion (an Alternative Language Program) and

approximately 146,355 students were enrolled in French as a second language across Alberta.

- There are approximately 214 schools across Alberta (in 47 jurisdictions, including 4 private schools) that report offering French Immersion program. School districts determine the subjects to be taught in French in addition to English Language Arts as per the Alberta curriculum.
- The Lycée Louis Pasteur school in Calgary inaugurated a million dollar renovation to its facilities in April 2010 and now offers high school programs. The school offers France's curriculum and employs teachers who are French nationals.
- Hunting Hills High School (Red Deer) and Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School (Red Deer) have partnerships with schools in France.
- To encourage teachers to pursue further language study, the Alberta government has designed two awards:
  - *The Language Teacher Bursary*, valued at CAD\$5,000 each and given to 10 teachers to attend a post-secondary language course at an institution outside Canada.
  - *The Languages in Teacher Education Scholarship*, valued at CAD\$2,500 each and awarded to 14 students currently in a teacher preparation program.
- Edmonton Public Schools is the first school district in Canada to be approved as an official examination centre for the Diplômes d'études en langue française (DELFP)/Diplôme approfondi de langue française (DALFP), internationally recognized language proficiency diplomas issued by the National Ministry of Education in France.
- The Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ) at the University of Alberta (U of A) is the only institution west of Winnipeg offering complete university degrees in French. The CSJ offers six academic undergraduate programs, a post-degree professional diploma in Education, and two Masters programs. The CSJ also has a Canadian Studies Research Institute

and inaugurated its first program in September 2013.

- The CSJ has one of the most comprehensive collections of French language books in Western Canada.
- Research, collaboration and activities to support the preservation of French language and culture take place at the CSJ through the Centre d'enseignement et de recherche en français, Canadian Studies Institute and L'Institut pour le patrimoine francophone de l'Ouest canadien.
- CSJ has carried out a number of student exchanges with national and international French post-secondary institutions as part of its bilingual Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Education programs.
- The U of A, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge have various Memorandums of Understandings and agreements to facilitate research, faculty and student exchanges with post-secondary institutions in France.
- The U of A has various agreements with universities in France, including the Université Catholique de Lille, Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble 1, and the Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine.
- MacEwan University has an exchange agreement with Lille Catholic University.

## COMMUNITY

- With over 81,000 Francophones residing in the province, Alberta has the largest minority French – speaking population in Canada after Ontario and New Brunswick.
- Over 238,000 Albertans are able to express themselves in French.
- Approximately one out of eight or 390,895 Albertans are of French or French-Canadian ancestry.
- The Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture, is responsible for the Francophone Secretariat.
- The French Department of Foreign Affairs supports a wide variety of cultural programs and institutions in Alberta including the Alliance Française de Calgary and Edmonton, the Calgary International Film Festival, the Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival, the Banff Centre and the High Performance Rodeo.
- Albertans have access to over 750,000 resources in French through municipal, community and university library networks and services.

- Alberta's Francophonie comprises more than 100 non-profit organizations active in a wide variety of sectors including arts and culture, education, health, early childhood, youth, newcomers, economic development, and heritage preservation.
- A number of Alberta's francophone arts and culture groups, including La Chorale St-Jean and Zéphyr dance troupe, have been invited to participate in important festivals and tours in France.
- In 2009, the French foreign affairs minister donated \$12,000 to the Médiathèque de l'Alliance française de Calgary, a media library which provides professional bilingual service to all, as well as, access to contemporary collections in French and English.
- The Union des Français de l'étranger (UFE) has an active provincial chapter located in Calgary.
- Since 1989, thousands of French-speaking Albertans get together in early July for the annual Fête Franco-albertaine.
- There is one weekly French language paper with province-wide circulation, Le Franco, which was founded in 1928.
- There are two French language community radio stations in Alberta, CKRP established in 1996 and CHPL established in 2011.
- CBC/Radio-Canada offers Albertans two French radio channels: Ici Radio-Canada Première, focusing on current affairs, and Ici Musique.
- Le Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta (CDÉA), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging Francophones in the Albertan economy, has offices in Edmonton, Calgary, Grande Prairie and Bonnyville. CDÉA is collaborating with Travel Alberta to attract tourists from French-speaking countries.

## IMMIGRATION

- Between 2003-2011, Alberta participated in an annual immigration event called Destination Canada in France and Belgium. In 2011, the event showcased 345 + jobs from 12 different Alberta employers.
- Since 2011, the CDÉA has worked closely with Alberta employers interested in recruiting skilled labour from French-speaking countries.
- Since 2002, Alberta Human Services and the Government of Canada have co-funded services and programs in

French to assist Francophones to develop useful tools and skills to find and maintain satisfying employment. These services are now available in Edmonton, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Canmore and Bonnyville.

- Since 2006, Alberta Human Services and the Government of Canada have co-funded settlement services and programs in French to assist French-speaking newcomers integrate into Alberta.
- Between 2009 and 2013, 475 immigrants from France chose Alberta as their destination, 74 per cent were economic immigrants. During this period, 1,626 temporary foreign workers from France were issued a permit to work in Alberta, and 405 students from France were issued a permit to study in the province.
- The Government of Alberta has completed a labour supply study and credential comparisons for engineering occupations in France in order to provide tangible labour market intelligence and credential information to employers recruiting international workers. A summary report and engineering occupation fact sheets are available on-line at: <http://www.albertacanada.com/oppor-tunity/employers/engineering-occupations.aspx>.

## RECENT VISITS

- October 2012: Official visit of France's Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Philippe Zeller.
- December 2011: The Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations led a mission to Paris for business and intergovernmental meetings.
- October 2010: Alberta's Minister responsible for the Francophone Secretariat attended the Sommet de la Francophonie in Montreux, Switzerland.
- May 2010: Alberta's Minister of Environment met with EU officials in Strasbourg to discuss Alberta's environmental management practices and how the province is transitioning to a cleaner energy future.

## DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- His Excellency Philippe Zeller is the French Ambassador to Canada.
- Mr. Lawrence Cannon is the Canadian Ambassador to France.
- Mr. Jean Christophe Fleury is the Consul General of France in Vancouver with jurisdiction for Alberta.
- Canada has Honorary Consulates in Lille, Lyons, Nice and Toulouse.



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