

# Vietnam – Alberta Relations

Government  
of Alberta



*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:** Hanoi

**Population:** 88.8 million (2012 est.)

**Language:** Vietnamese (official), English, French and Chinese

**Government:** Communist State, one-party rule

**Head of State:** President Truong Tan SANG (since July 25, 2011)

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Nguyen Tan DUNG (since June 27, 2006)

**Currency:** \$1CDN = 20,408 Dong (VND) (October 2013)

**GDP:** \$155.6 billion US (2012)

**GDP (PPP):** \$320.0 billion US (2012 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** 5.0% (2012)

**Inflation:** 9.1% (2012)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Food processing, garments, shoes, machine-building, mining, coal, steel, cement, chemical fertilizer, glass, tires, oil and paper.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- By joining the World Trade Organization in 2007, Vietnam has

committed itself to a stable and predictable rules-based trade regime including specific commitments for tariffs on goods and services.

- Vietnam's commitment to establishing a dispute resolution agency governed by common international law may be a key component in increasing foreign investment.
- Vietnam became a member of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 1998 and hosted the 2006 APEC Summit in Hanoi. Canada is also a member of this 21-member regional forum, established in 1989, to further enhance economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Vietnam became a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1995. The 10-member association was established in 1967.
- Following the conclusion of the second Indochina War, South Vietnam was officially integrated with the North as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on July 2, 1976.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

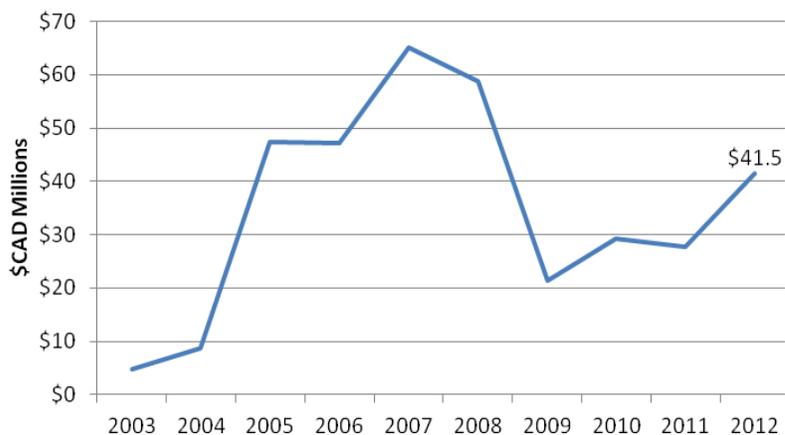
- Since 2006, Vietnam has received funding from the Government of Alberta for flood relief and for other projects to relieve poverty.
- The Government of Alberta participated in the Canadian International

Development Agency (CIDA)-funded Vietnam-Judicial Development and Grassroots Engagement (JUDGE) Project. This five-year (2006-2011) project aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Vietnamese legal-judicial sector in support of more transparency and accountability. Alberta shared its expertise in court administration and procedural reform.

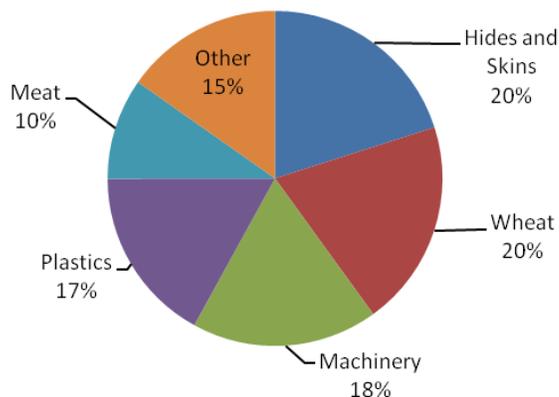
## COMMUNITY

- Approximately 25,100 Albertans are of Vietnamese descent.
- Between 2006 and 2010, 11,447 immigrants from Vietnam chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 17% were economic immigrants. During the same time period, 634 foreign workers from Vietnam were issued a permit to work in Alberta.
- From 2006 to 2010, 282 foreign students from Vietnam were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- Active Vietnamese community associations have been established in Calgary and Edmonton, including the Vietnamese Chinese Association and the Viets Association.

## Alberta's Exports to Vietnam, 2003-2012



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Vietnam, 2008-2012 (Total Average= CAD \$35.7 million)



### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2008 and 2012, Alberta's annual exports to Vietnam averaged \$35.7 million CAD. Exports included hides and skins, machinery, wheat, plastics and beef.
- During the same period, Alberta's imports from Vietnam averaged approximately \$47.8 million CAD annually, consisting of furniture, iron and steel products, and electrical machinery. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

### AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

- Vietnam approved exports of live breeding cattle, sheep, and goats from Canada in late 2011, providing access to a market valued at around \$50 million.
- Alberta's agri-food exports to Vietnam were valued at \$23.5 million in 2012 (a 100% increase from 2011).
- Top agri-food exports included wheat (\$11.4 million), raw hides and skins (\$6.2 million) and beef (\$3.4 million).
- Vietnam is Alberta's fifth largest market for exports of raw hides and skins, valued at \$6.2 million in 2012.
- Exports of forest products from Canada are now worth \$26.4 billion and the \$17.2 billion trade surplus in forest products is second only to oil and gas. This remains important to rural communities that rely on the health of the forest sector.

### ENERGY

- Alberta and Vietnam have a long history of cooperation in the energy sector. Calgary-based Talisman Energy has interests in three offshore oil drilling projects off Vietnam's coast, in the South China Sea. Keeper Energy, also based in Calgary, has partnered with a subsidiary of government-owned PetroVietnam to explore coalbed methane onshore.
- PetroVietnam has been looking at acquiring energy assets abroad, including in Alberta.
- Vietnam's proven oil reserves were 4.4 billion barrels (bbl) in 2012.

Comparatively, Alberta's proven oil reserves were 169.7 billion bbl in 2012.

- In 2012, Vietnam's crude oil production averaged 363,500 barrels per day (bbl/d). Although Vietnam is a significant oil producer it remains reliant on imports of value-added petroleum products owing to a lack of refining capacity.
- Vietnam's first oil refinery opened in February 2009, and processes 148,000 bbl/d. It is owned by PetroVietnam, and is designed to meet one-third of Vietnam's fuel demand.
- To meet increasing refined product demand, Vietnam plans to expand its refining capacity up to 1,520,000 bbl/d by 2020. For this plan, the Vietnam government is trying to attract joint venture investment or foreign direct investment.
- Vietnam's proven gas reserves are 24.7 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) as of January 2012. Currently, all production is consumed domestically.
- Opportunities exist in Vietnam's electricity sector, as the country faces acute power shortages.

### EDUCATION

- In 2013, Alberta postsecondary institutions joined a mission to Vietnam to attend the Canada Education Week fair.
- Vietnam offers enormous opportunities for educational institutions with the increased demand for skilled professionals. Vietnamese families continue to seek out high quality education for their children.
- Vietnam is poised to be in the top 25 foreign student source countries for Canada.
- Alberta sponsored a delegation of Vietnamese and Thailand education representatives to Alberta as part of a cross-Canada tour in June 2010.
- Vietnam has been sending senior civil servants to Alberta since 2010 to

improve English language skills and acquire broader knowledge in related areas ranging from rural development and agriculture to finance and higher education through Project 165.

### AGREEMENTS

- Canada and Vietnam are currently negotiating parties in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a regional free trade agreement.
- Alberta and Vietnam have agreements to advance cooperation in the areas of vocational training, labour mobility, trade and agriculture-related training and research.

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Alberta export opportunities exist in information communication technology, education and training, agri-food and forestry.
- Vietnam's largest import sectors include machinery and equipment, petrochemicals, fertilizers, steel products, grain, cement and raw cotton.

### RECENT VISITS

- September 2012: A Vietnamese agriculture business delegation visited Alberta for livestock production technology and services.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Vietnam's Ambassador in Ottawa is His Excellency Le Sy Vuong Ha.
- Vietnam's Consul General in Vancouver, responsible for Alberta, is Mr. Quang Dung Tran.
- Canada's Ambassador to Vietnam, located in Hanoi, is Ms. Deborah Chatsis.



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