

Heilongjiang - 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: Harbin

Population: 38.2 million (2012)
(3 per cent of China's total population)

Major Cities: Harbin (12,635,000); Suihua (5,616,000); Qiqihar (5,710,000); Daqing (2,900,000); and Mudanjiang (2,822,000)

Language: Mandarin

Government: Chinese Communist Party

Head of Government: Governor WANG Xiankui represents the executive branch of government and is responsible to the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Congress

Currency: CAD \$1 = 4.89 Yuan Renminbi (2015 average)

Key Industry Sectors: Petroleum, agriculture, coal, lumber and heavy industry

Sources:
Bank of Canada, Economist Intelligence Unit

DID YOU KNOW?

- Following the recommendation of China's Ambassador to Canada, a protocol of understanding and friendship was signed by Alberta and Heilongjiang in 1981.
- Heilongjiang is twinned with Hokkaido prefecture in Japan, which is also Alberta's sister province.
- The city of Edmonton is twinned with Harbin, Heilongjiang's capital city, and Calgary

is twinned with Daqing, known as the oil capital of China.

- Heilongjiang is China's principal oil-producing province containing China's largest oil field, Daqing Oilfield.
- Alberta companies have been successful in supplying energy equipment and services to Heilongjiang. In 1998, Sunwing Energy Ltd. of Calgary was the first foreign company to produce oil in China.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- 2016 marked the 35th anniversary of the Heilongjiang-Alberta sister province relationship. In 2011, for the 30th anniversary, the Government of Alberta worked with the Heilongjiang government to organize several events to mark the occasion. Celebrations culminated with a winter ice carving festival in Alberta in January 2012 featuring a delegation of ice carvers from Heilongjiang, a gift from the Heilongjiang government.
- After the Fort McMurray wildfires in Alberta, in 2016, the Governor of Heilongjiang sent a letter of sympathy to Alberta, and the Heilongjiang Far East Forest Group donated a significant amount of money to support rebuilding after the fires.
- Similarities between Alberta and Heilongjiang include climate, topography, energy resources and agricultural production.
- Mutual areas of interest and exchange include agriculture, energy, forestry, science and

technology, medicine, culture, education and environmental protection.

- In 1998, Heilongjiang suffered its worst flooding in decades. Albertans responded by raising over \$200,000 in private donations.
- The Government of Alberta made an additional \$100,000 contribution to flood relief efforts and extended a special scholarship to Heilongjiang for skill development related to flood management.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- China is Alberta's second largest trading partner. Alberta's trading relationship with China has more than tripled since 2003.
- Commercial activities with Heilongjiang have expanded beyond the petroleum sector and include coal gasification, petrochemical production and manufacturing, cattle breeding, forage seed, hides and malting barley.

FORESTRY

- In August 2013, Forestry Division attended the 6th China International Wood Products Trade Fair in Heilongjiang. Forestry Division, FPIInnovations and Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Forestry coordinated a workshop to promote Alberta's forest industry.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Forestry has been drafted in principal based on previous meetings and is ready to advance when additional opportunities for cooperation are agreed upon.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- In 2010, Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education and the Heilongjiang Department of Sciences and Technology renewed an MOU on science and technology collaboration.
- In support of the MOU and the 30th anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang sister province relationship, Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education and the Heilongjiang Department of Science and Technology held a Water Technology Forum in Harbin in January 2011 and a technology industry roundtable event in Alberta in October 2011.

AGRICULTURE

- In the past, several agricultural co-operation agreements, focused on livestock improvement, pasture management, beef and dairy cattle genetics technology and food processing research and development, were signed between Heilongjiang and Alberta.
- In July 10, 2014, the Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences and Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures established a formal partnership to develop hemp as a multipurpose crop.
- In 2011, Agriculture and Rural Development collaborated with the Heilongjiang Animal Husbandry Bureau and held a dairy seminar to promote Alberta dairy genetic materials, feed and farm equipment technologies to the dairy industries in Heilongjiang.
- In 2009, Alberta's Leduc Food Processing Development Centre signed an agreement with the Daqing Food Processing Research and Development Centre in Heilongjiang.

EDUCATION

- Advanced Education provides funding to Alberta post-secondary institutions through the Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning which allows institutions to develop short-term study abroad programs in other countries including China.
- Alberta supports the MITACS Globalink program which provides scholarships for leading undergraduate Chinese students to pursue research topics in Alberta under the supervision of top Alberta researchers during the summer.
- In July 2013, 19 students (ages 14-18) from across Alberta participated in the Student Summer Camp in China, hosted by Heilongjiang and the Council of Chinese Language International (Hanban).

- The University of Calgary has a significant student exchange and research collaboration agreement with Harbin Medical University. In 2014, an articulation agreement was signed with Harbin Institute of Technology, offering students the opportunity to earn dual degrees.
- NAIT has been cooperating with Heilongjiang University of Science and Technology since 2004 through a program linkage in the Computer Systems Technology/Digital Media and IT diploma programs.
- The University of Alberta (U of A) and Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) have a long history of cooperation, especially through joint research projects. As of August 2014, there are over 110 papers jointly published by researchers from both U of A and HIT. Since 2010, the U of A has had a general MOU, plus an appendix, related to cooperation regarding graduate students jointly-funded with the China Scholarship Council. The U of A is a popular choice for graduates of HIT.

- In July 2015, the Department of East Asian Studies at U of A Faculty of Arts restarted its Summer in China program with a four-week intensive language learning session at HIT. In total, 40 students participated.
- In July 2014, the U of A and HIT co-hosted the 2014 China-Canada Joint Workshop on Building Dual PhD Degree Programs in Harbin, China. The two-day event brought together leaders from 14 Canadian and 21 Chinese universities to discuss key issues in establishing dual PhD programs between the two countries.

CULTURE

- The Royal Alberta Museum has developed strong links with Chinese cultural institutions bringing unique aspects of Chinese culture to Alberta. Examples include the "Rise of the Black Dragon" exhibits from the Jurchen Jin Dynasty and a Qing Dynasty exhibit from Heilongjiang.
- Heilongjiang and Alberta have shared paleontological research expertise.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- In March 2014, the Government of Alberta partnered with Heilongjiang Environmental Protection Department and Heilongjiang Foreign Affairs Office to host the Alberta-China Environmental Technology Workshop in Harbin. The Forum provided the Alberta environmental industry with opportunities to explore the Chinese market and develop cooperative partnerships in China.

- Significant opportunity exists in water quality monitoring (consulting and technology) within China.

RECENT VISITS

- November 2016: The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (AF) attended the Heilongjiang Value-Added Processing Symposium and witnessed the signing of two new Memorandum of Cooperation between AF and the Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences and Heilongjiang Bayi Agriculture University.
- March 2014: The Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations led a mission to Heilongjiang to discuss opportunities related to commerce, science and technology, and trade and investment, as well as to provide opening remarks at the Alberta-China Environmental Technology Workshop in Harbin.
- January 2014: The Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour represented Alberta at the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival opening ceremonies.
- October 2013: The Minister of Municipal Affairs visited Heilongjiang to meet with members of the government to discuss potential joint projects relating to disaster preparation and management.
- September 2013: The Premier of Alberta visited Heilongjiang, meeting with the Governor to discuss strategies for further cooperation between the provinces, and signing a Letter of Intent for cooperation in sustainable economic development.



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