

# 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:** 37.99 million (2016)  
(2.7 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:** ZHANG Qingwei is Party Secretary and Chairman of the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Congress; Governor WANG Wentao represents the executive branch of government

**Currency:** CAD \$1 = 5.21 Yuan Renminbi (2017 average)

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

*Sources: Bank of Canada, Heilongjiang Bureau of Statistics*

## 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 one of Alberta's sister provinces.
- 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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.

- In 2014, the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA) expanded the National Forest Protection Program (NFPP), banning commercial logging in state-owned natural forests in Heilongjiang Province which has historically produced over 30 percent of China's domestic log supply.
- The SFA further expanded the ban in 2017, removing commercial logging quota in natural forests nationwide, removing over half of the country's total domestic timber production.
- To fill demand, China's imports of timber products has grown exponentially, with imports of logs and sawnwood exceeding domestic production.
- In 2017, Alberta forest product exports to China totaled C\$559 million, driven by wood pulp sales of C\$530 million.

## 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 Nov. 2016, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) Minister Oneil Carlier attended a signing ceremony and dinner reception to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang sister province relationship. Two separate MOCs were signed at the ceremony between AF and the Heilongjiang Academy of Science and the Heilongjiang Bayi Agricultural University, focusing on new food product development in functional ingredients and bio-products and cooperation on meat processing technologies.
- 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 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.
- The University of Calgary has a significant student exchange and research collaboration agreement with Harbin Medical University. Cumming School of Medicine also admits Cotutelle students from HNU. After graduation, Cotutelle students can get two parchments of the doctoral degree, one from HNU, one from UCalgary. 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 (UAlberta) and Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) have a long history of cooperation, especially through joint research projects. As of August 2018, there are over 182 papers jointly published by researchers from both UAlberta and HIT. The UAlberta is a popular choice for graduates of HIT to pursue graduate studies.
- Since July 2015, the Department of East Asian Studies at UAlberta Faculty of Arts restarted its Summer in China program with a four-week intensive language learning session at HIT. As of August 2018, close to 150 Canadian students have participated in this program.
- In July 2014, the UAlberta 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.
- MacEwan University hosted a visit by the President of Heilongjiang University in 2015 and then signed an MOU with Heilongjiang

University in 2016, and has hosted several visiting scholars from the Heilongjiang Foreign Affairs Office from 2011 to 2016.

- Alberta Advanced Education supports the Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning (CAGFIL) program enabling post-secondary institutions to develop study and research collaboration involving Heilongjiang

## 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.

## RECENT VISITS

- August 2018: The Vice Governor of Heilongjiang visited Alberta, with a program focused on cooperation in areas related to innovation and tourism.
- September 2017: The Vice Governor of Heilongjiang visited Alberta to deepen relations between the provinces, and discuss the expansion of trade and investment relations, as well as culture and education initiatives.
- 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.



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