

# 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:** 38.1 million (2011)  
(3 percent of China's total population)

**Major Cities:** Harbin (10,635,000); Suihua (5,416,000); Qiqihar (5,367,000); Daqing (2,900,000); and Mudanjiang (2,798,000).

**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:** \$1 CAD = 6.32 Yuan Renminbi (2012 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 in Japan.

- In 1985, Edmonton twinned with Harbin, Heilongjiang's capital city, and Calgary entered into a sister city relationship with Daqing.
- 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

- The year 2011 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heilongjiang-Alberta sister province relationship.
- The Alberta government worked with the Heilongjiang government to organize several events to mark the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 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.
- 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 CAD in private donations. The Alberta government made an additional \$100,000 CAD contribution to flood relief efforts and extended a special scholarship to Heilongjiang for skill development directly 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.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- In October 2010, Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education and the Heilongjiang Department of Sciences and Technology renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on science and technology collaboration.
- In support of the MOU and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang twinning 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.

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Foothills Composite High School in Okotoks and Rundle College in Calgary both have school partnerships with counterparts in Heilongjiang.
- 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.

## AGRICULTURE

- Over the years, several agricultural co-operation agreements, focused on livestock improvement, pasture management, beef and dairy cattle genetics technology, food processing research and development, have been signed between Heilongjiang and Alberta.
- In 2011, Alberta 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.

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- China's accession to the World Trade Organization in December 2001 presents significant challenges to Heilongjiang's agri-food sector with increased market competition. As Heilongjiang addresses these challenges, there may be opportunities for additional co-operation between Alberta and Heilongjiang in the agricultural sector.
- Significant opportunity exists in water quality monitoring (consulting and technology) within China.

## RECENT VISITS

- June 2012: 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.
- July 2011: Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation led an Alberta Hockey Coach mission to Heilongjiang to provide on-ice training sessions and to discuss future sports collaborations.
- May 2011: The Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education led an investment mission to China, including Harbin, to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang sister province relationship.
- April 2011: The Executive Vice-Governor of Heilongjiang led a 10-person delegation to Edmonton to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang sister province relationship.
- October 2010: The Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education led a mission to Beijing, Harbin, Daqing and Hong Kong to meet with government and industry leaders to strengthen innovation and educational bonds.
- May 2010: The Premiers of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan led a joint trade mission to China to promote trade and investment opportunities between Western Canada and Asia. The Premier of Alberta also met with the Governor of Heilongjiang in Shanghai at the 2010 Shanghai Expo.
- October 2008: The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development led a delegation to Harbin and Daqing to advance activities under existing co-operative agreements. In Daqing, the Minister visited the Daqing Food Processing Research and Development Centre at Heilongjiang August First Land Reclamation University.



### For more information, contact:

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