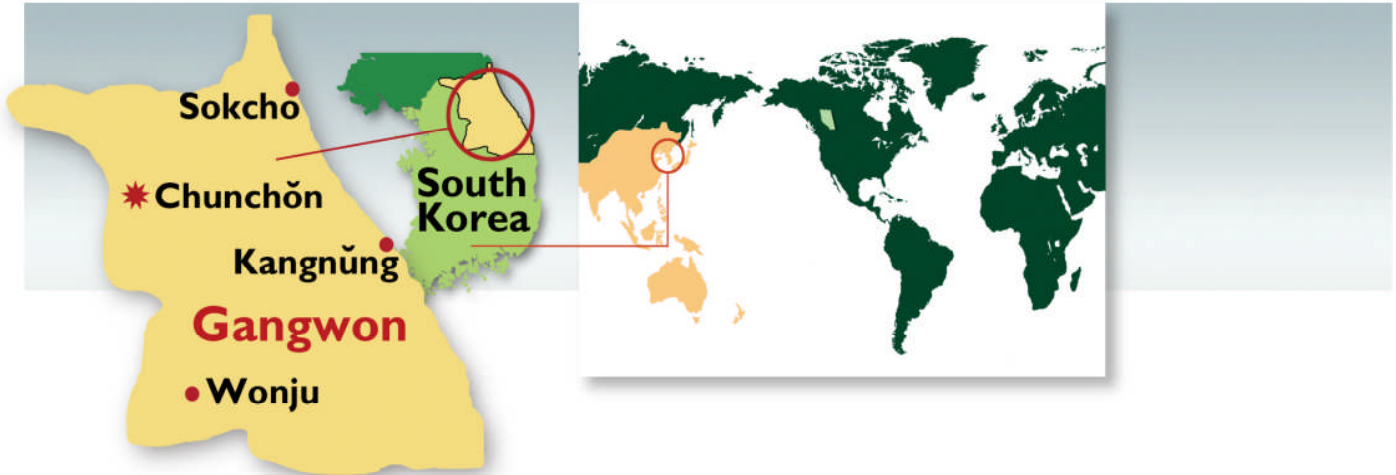


Gangwon - Alberta Relations



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: Chuncheon

Population: 1.55 million (2012) (only 3.2 percent of South Korea's total population)

Language: Korean

Government: Presidential System

Head of Government: Governor CHOI Moon-soon (elected April 2011)

Currency: \$1 CAD = 1,054 South Korean Won (2013 average)

Key Industry Sectors: Tourism, livestock, agriculture, fishing, mining, manufacturing, bioengineering

Sources:

Bank of Canada, Economist Intelligence Unit, Government of Gangwon

DID YOU KNOW?

- Pyeongchang County in the province of Gangwon will host the 2018 Winter Olympics.
- Pyeongchang is located southeast of Seoul in the southern part of Gangwon's Taebaek Mountain region. At 700 meters above sea-level, Pyeongchang's mountains are the centre for winter sports and are referred to as "Korea's Alps."
- Gangwon was divided during the Korean War (1950-53). One-third of the province's former territory is in North Korea.
- South Korean provinces have gained more autonomy since 1995 although the scope of their responsibilities still is considerably less

than that of Canadian provinces.

- There are 18 administrative districts in Gangwon (7 cities with populations over 50,000 and 11 counties).
- Similar to parts of Alberta, Gangwon has heavily forested areas. Just under 20% of the land in Gangwon is available for farming and other uses. Gangwon province has a land mass of 16,874 square kilometers; roughly 17 percent of the total area in South Korea. Gangwon consists of about 81.6 percent, or 13,782 km squared of forest. Only 8.4 percent of the land is for farming, and 10 percent is for other uses.
- With a population of approximately 273,130 (2012), the capital city of Chuncheon has about 1/3 of the population of Edmonton.
- Gangwon has sister province relationships with Mpumalanga in South Africa, Jilin in China, Totori Prefecture in Japan, Primorskii Territory in Russia, and Colorado in the United States.
- Gangwon Province is working to become a "Global Bio & Healthcare Industrial Capital" and to create the foundation for encouraging low-carbon, green growth.
- Part of Gangwon's regional development strategy is based on building a knowledge-based industrial cluster through a multi-core structure, with three core cities (Chuncheon, Wonju, and Gangneung) forming a "Techno Valley Triangle."

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- The Alberta-Gangwon cooperation began in the 1970s with a joint beef ranching demonstration project.
- The 1974 Alberta-Gangwon twinning was the first of Alberta's sister province relationships. Most activities have involved education, culture and sport exchanges, but have expanded into research, science and technology, and business relations.
- 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon sister province relationship.
- In 2012, Alberta and Gangwon signed an agreement for a friendship sport exchange between the provinces.
- In April 2010, Alberta's International Region (consisting of the City of Leduc and Leduc County); the towns of Beaumont, Calmar and Devon; and the villages of New Sarepta, Thorsby and Warburg all signed a memorandum of co-operation with Yangyang County, in northeastern Gangwon province related to business exchange and technology transfer.
- As a Centennial gift to Alberta (2005) and to mark the 30th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon sister province relationship (2004), Gangwon constructed a Korean-style pavilion for the Royal Alberta Museum.
- Alberta and Gangwon have participated in staff exchanges. Alberta has posted three officials to Gangwon since 1998 and several Gangwon officials have worked in Alberta.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Trade between Alberta and Gangwon is limited and indirect, mainly involving agriculture and food products.
- Following the lead of the national South Korean government, Gangwon is streamlining its regulations in an effort to attract foreign investment and capital.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- In April 2012, the Government of Alberta hosted a delegation from the Gangwon Technopark as part of an ongoing collaborative research and commercialization initiative.
- In May 2005, Alberta signed a letter of intent with the Gangwon Department of Industry and Economy to promote opportunities for joint research and development activities in science, technology, and commercialization in both regions.
- Approximately \$1.5 million has been contributed to eleven projects through the Alberta-Gangwon Collaboration Program since 2005. Funding has supported researchers and/or companies in Alberta and Gangwon to collaborate on various projects.
- Alberta-Gangwon Technology Forums were held in 2005 (Gangwon), 2006 (Alberta) and 2012 (Alberta) resulting in joint business and research and development projects.

EDUCATION

- In November 2012, Alberta Health hosted a delegation of mental and public health officials from Gangwon to learn best practices from Alberta on suicide prevention and mental health treatment programs.
- Since 1984, the University of Alberta's Kangwon Teachers of Education Program (KTEP) has helped over 400 Gangwon Province teachers hone their English language teaching skills.
- Two Alberta high schools have twinnings with a junior high school in Gangwon.
- Alberta and Gangwon have awarded reciprocal scholarships to help students study in their respective sister province. This program was discontinued in 2009.

CULTURE

- In June 2012, Alberta hosted Gangwon athletes, coaches and government personnel as part of an Alberta-Gangwon Women's basketball exchange.
- Since 1974, Alberta has participated in numerous sports exchanges with Gangwon, including alpine and nordic skiing, whitewater canoeing, wrestling, boxing, soccer, tennis, team handball, fencing, and cycling.

COMMUNITY

- Approximately 12,340 Albertans are of Korean descent.
- Active Korean community associations have been established in Calgary and Edmonton. In addition to providing assistance to newly arrived immigrants, these associations help to promote Korean culture and provide support to Korean business owners.

RECENT VISITS

- September 2013: The Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations Associate Minister held discussions with Gangwon Provincial Government's Global Business Bureau, and provided support for Gangwon's planning for the 2018 Winter Olympics, meeting with graduates from Alberta's Global Leaders Program.
- April 2012: The Ambassador of Korea to Canada and the Director General of the Gangwon Bureau of International Cooperation accompanied the Gangwon Provincial Orchestra, a traditional Korean performance group, to Edmonton and Calgary for "Alberta Caravan" cultural performances, as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Canada-Korea relations in 2013. The Director General met with provincial counterparts to discuss future cooperation projects related to Gangwon's hosting of the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang.
- November 2010: During a mission to South Korea and Japan, Alberta's Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations met with the Governor of Gangwon and Gangwon's Deputy-Governor of Economic Affairs to discuss Alberta-Gangwon relations.



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