

# 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 per cent of South Korea's total population)

**Language:** Korean

**Government:** Presidential System

**Head of Government:** Governor CHOI Moon-soon (elected April 2011; re-elected June 2014)

**Currency:** CAD \$1 = 882.22 South Korean Won (2015 average)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Tourism, livestock, agriculture, fishing, mining, manufacturing and 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 per cent 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 per cent of the total area in South Korea. Gangwon consists of about 81.6 per cent, or 13,782 km square km of forest. Only 8.4 per cent of the land is for farming, and 10 per cent 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 formation of the Alberta-Gangwon sister province relationship was the first for Alberta. Most activities have involved education, culture and sport exchanges, but have expanded into research, science and technology, and business relations.
- As a Centennial gift to Alberta (2005), and to mark the 30th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon sister province relationship (2004), Gangwon constructed a wooden Korean-style jeongja (pavilion) which is located on the grounds of Government House.
- In July 2015, Vice-Governor KIM Jeongsam of Gangwon visited Edmonton where he and the Premier of Alberta signed the 40th anniversary Protocol of Reaffirmation of the sister province relationship between Gangwon and Alberta.
- In 2012, Alberta and Gangwon signed an agreement for a friendship sport exchange between the provinces.
- 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.

## ENERGY

- Gangwon had produced most of Korea's coal but it does not produce that much anymore.
- Gangwon, with the best wind power resources in Korea, has highly advantageous condition in developing the province into a wind power generation hub in Korea. In 2015, Gangwon deployed the largest number of wind power plants in Korea with 125 units. The province plans to increase it by more than double by 2018.

## FORESTRY

- The 40th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon sister province relationship was celebrated in 2014 with the unveiling of a wooden pavilion gifted from Alberta to Gangwon province.
- The pavilion was constructed outside of the Alpensia Resort, a VIP site where visiting dignitaries and media will be housed during the 2018 Winter Olympics.
- The wooden pavilion also continued the tradition of using wood in Centennial projects first used in the Korea-style jeongja, built outside Government House in 2005 to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister province relationship.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Alberta's Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education provides support for an international research collaboration between the University of Calgary (U of C) and the Korean company M & D, based in Gangwon. The project focuses on measuring cancer cells and tissue samples to measure biomarker expression in real-time.
- In April 2012, the Government of Alberta hosted a delegation from the Gangwon Technopark as part of an ongoing collaborative research and commercialization initiative.
- Approximately \$1.5 million has been contributed to 11 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

- 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 Korea.
  - In July 2013, students from Gangwon visited Alberta as part of Gangwon's Global Leader Program. In Edmonton, they met with officials from International and Intergovernmental Relations, and were introduced to the history of the relationship between Alberta and Gangwon.
  - 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.
  - In July 2015, University of Calgary welcomed a delegation from Gangwon to recognize their support of the Schulich School of Engineering research. The partnership between Alberta and Gangwon includes joint funding of research, which benefits Schulich School of Engineering researchers working in the area of biomedical engineering.
  - In July 2012, a group of university students from Gangwon visited Alberta as part of the Global Leader Program. They were hosted by Mt. Royal University in Calgary, and met with government officials, attended the Calgary Stampede, and took part in various Olympic-related events.
  - Since 2012, Mount Royal University welcomed participants on the Global Leaders Program, a training program initiated by Gangwon Province in South Korea to train provincial government officials who will be a part of the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The program is expected to continue until 2017.
  - 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.
- In 2014, Alberta collaborated with Gangwon in developing a Children's Art Exhibition, celebrating 40 years of international partnership.

## CULTURE

- In June/July of 2015, a biathlon delegation, including ten athletes from Alberta, visited Gangwon.

- In April 2015, a delegation from Gangwon visited Alberta and met with officials from the Ministry of Seniors to discuss policies, service practices and management/operation of facilities for senior citizens.
- In December 2014, Alberta hosted Gangwon athletes, coaches and government personnel as part of an Alberta-Gangwon Biathlon exchange.
- 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, golf, boxing, soccer, tennis, team handball, fencing and cycling.
- In 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.

## 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 the Gangwon Provincial Government's Global Business Bureau and met with graduates from Gangwon's Global Leaders Program.
- November 2010: During a mission to South Korea, 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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