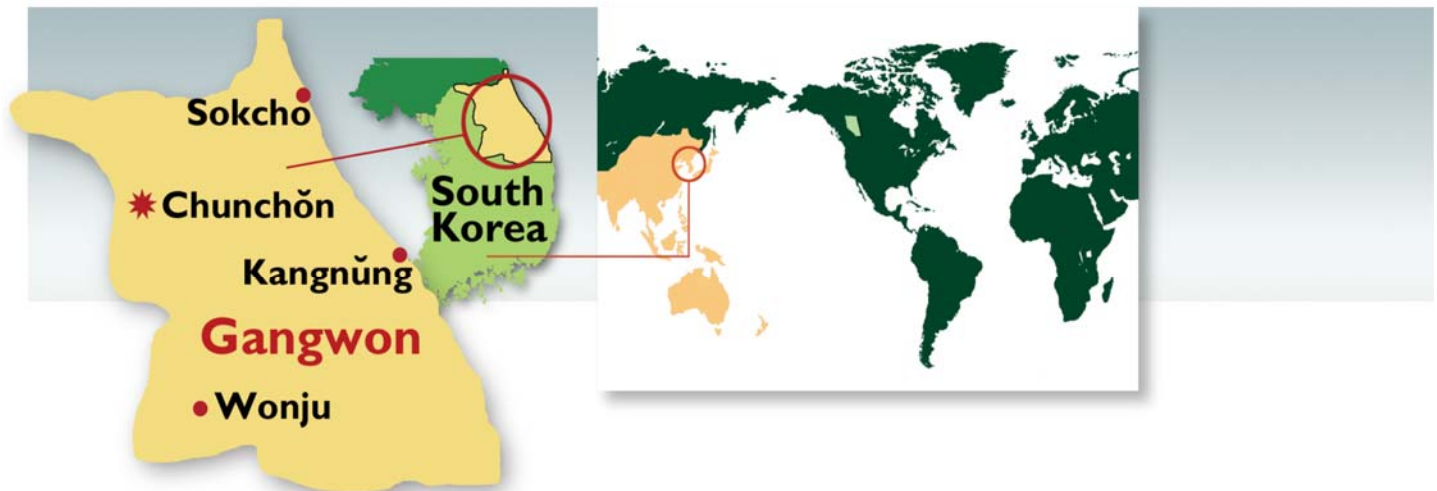


Gangwon - Alberta Relations



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: 1.54 million (2014) (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 and June 2018)

Currency: CAD \$1 = 871.1 South Korean Won (2017 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 hosted 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 (seven 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 2018, at the invitation of the Gangwon government, Alberta sent three Indigenous musicians, one of whom is a hoop-dancer, to perform on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics.
- An Alberta delegation, led by the Deputy Premier and the Mayor of Calgary, also travelled to Gangwon for the 2018 Olympics, in part to assess the potential of a bid for Calgary to host the 2026 Winter Olympics.
- 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.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Trade between Alberta and Gangwon is limited and indirect, mainly involving agriculture and food products.

ENERGY

- 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.

AGRICULTURE

- During the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, Alberta provided Alberta beef at Canada Olympic House.
- In September 2017, a Canadian Agri-Food Promotion event was held at the Alpensia PyeongChang Resort in Gangwon province, Korea. The event, organized by Alberta in partnership with the Canadian Embassy, and other provincial and industry partners, was timed to begin with the "D-150 countdown" to the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic games in PyeongChang. The program on September 12, included a reopening ceremony for the Alberta Wood Pavilion signage, wish wall for the success of the games, Canada Culture Zone, musical performances and an agri-food promotion featuring Alberta beef.

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 were 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 30th anniversary of the sister province relationship.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education provides support for an international research collaboration between the University of Calgary (UCalgary) 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.

- 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.

EDUCATION

- In 2014, Alberta collaborated with Gangwon in developing a Children's Art Exhibition, celebrating 40 years of international partnership.
- Launched during International Education Week in 2017, the Think Globally Art Contest had students reflect and illustrate what Alberta's Olympic and Paralympic spirit meant to them, in celebration of the 2018 games in Pyeongchang. Postcards were created from the winning artwork, which were then distributed during and after the games to various stakeholders.
- In spring 2017 and summer 2018, UCalgary offered a short-term English Language Learning Training Program for the Gangwon Province Human Resource Development Centre (GHRDC). Government representatives from the GHRDC completed English training on campus.
- In July 2015, UCalgary 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.
- 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 to be part of the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.
- Since 1984, UAlberta's Kangwon Teachers of Education Program has helped over 600 Gangwon Province teachers hone their English language teaching skills.
- As part of connections developed through the Alberta-Gangwon sister-province relationship, various Kangwon National University faculty members have spent time at UAlberta or are alumni of UAlberta.

SPORTS AND CULTURE

- In February of 2018, Deputy Premier and the Minister of Culture & Tourism participated in PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games 2018.
- 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.
- 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.

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.



For more information, contact:
 Alberta Economic Development and Trade
 Phone: 780-427-6543 Fax: 780-427-0699
albertacanada.com
economic.alberta.ca