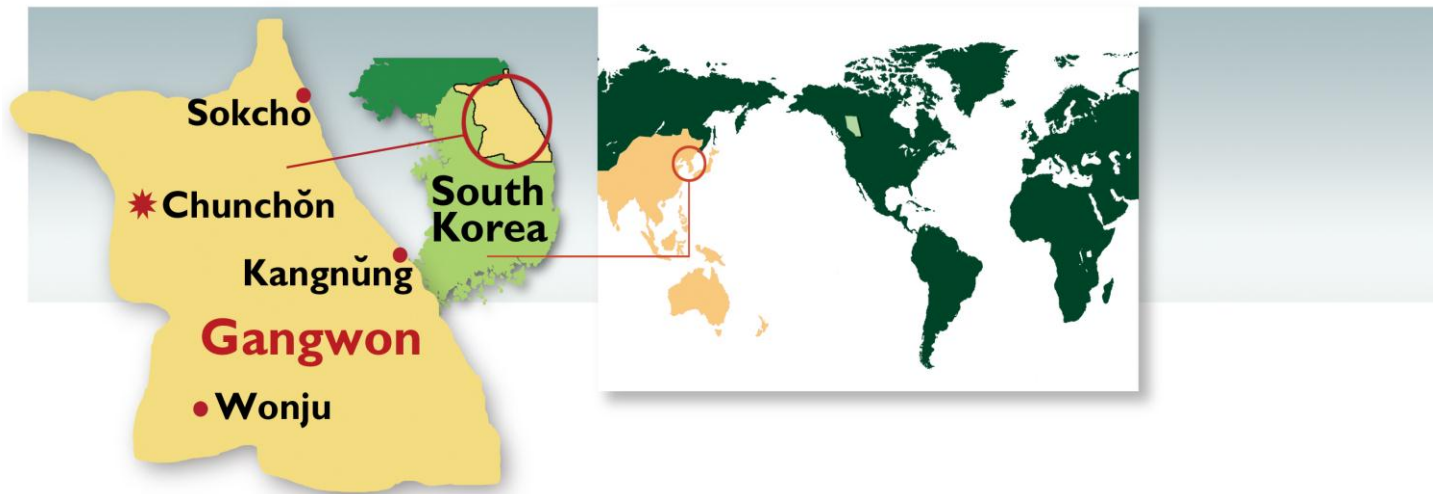


# Gangwon - Alberta Relations



*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 = 1,054 South Korean Won (2013 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.
- 2014 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon sister province relationship (2004), Gangwon constructed a Korean-style jeongja (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 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 by them 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 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.
- In 2012, Mount Royal University in Calgary was selected to deliver the official English Language training program for participants in the Global Leaders' Program sponsored by

Gangwon Province to train employees prior to the 2018 Winter Olympics.

- 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 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, 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 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 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.



### For more information, contact:

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