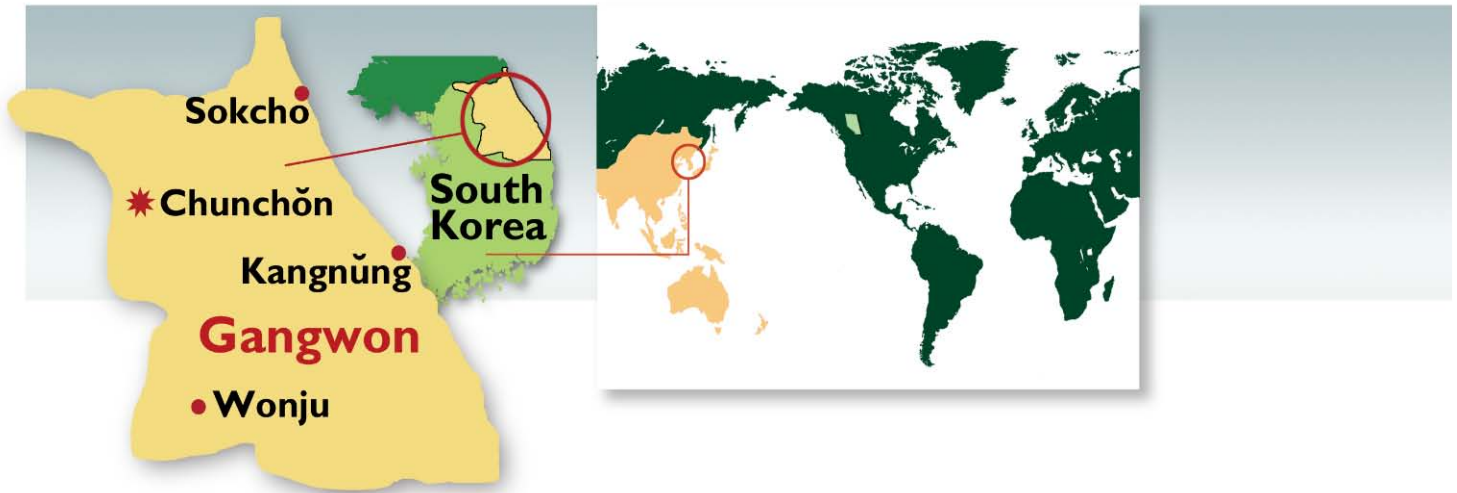


Gangwon – Alberta Relations

Government
of Alberta ■



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: 1.56 million (2010 estimate) (3.2% of the total population in Korea)

Language: Korean

Government: Presidential Republic

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

Currency: \$1 CDN = 1,119.84 South Korean Won (2011 average)

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

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 in South Korea 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).
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 2009 marked the 35th anniversary of Alberta-Gangwon sister province relations.
- As a Centennial gift to Alberta and to mark the 30th Anniversary of Alberta-Gangwon sister province relations, Gangwon undertook the construction of a Korean-style pavilion on the grounds near Government House in Edmonton.
- 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.
- 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, signed a memorandum of co-operation with Yangyang County, in northeastern Gangwon province.

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 capital.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- 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 activity to develop science, technology, and commercialization in both regions.

- Under the letter of intent, approximately \$1.3 million has been contributed to ten projects since 2005. Current areas of focus are water management, bio-energy, and healthcare diagnostic and delivery technologies.
- The Alberta-Gangwon Research Collaboration Fund was established in 2005 by Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and the Department of Industry and Economy of Gangwon. Funding supports researchers and/or companies in Alberta and Gangwon to collaborate on various projects. Alberta-Gangwon Technology Forums were held in 2005 (Gangwon) and 2006 (Alberta) resulting in joint research and development projects.
- In 2011-12, the focus for the forum was on healthcare, diagnostic, and delivery technologies.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- 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.
- 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.
- CKER-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, including Korean.

COMMUNITY

- Approximately 12,000 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.

RECENT VISITS

- November 2010: Alberta's Minister of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations met with the Governor of Gangwon during a mission to South Korea, and met with Gangwon's Vice-Governor to discuss Alberta-Gangwon relations.
- September 2009: The Lieutenant Governor for Political Affairs for Gangwon visited Edmonton.
- June 2008: Alberta's Minister of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations visited Gangwon during a mission to South Korea.
- May 2008: The Vice Mayor of Wonju City visited the City of Edmonton to strengthen the sister relationship between Edmonton and Wonju.

