

# Heilongjiang – 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:** Harbin

**Population:** 38 million  
(3% of China's total population)

**Major Cities:** Harbin (9,743,600);  
Qiqihar (5,611,000); Suihua  
(5,170,000); Mudanjiang (2,663,000);  
Daqing (2,644,000)

**Language:** Mandarin

**Government:** Chinese Communist  
Party

**Head of Government:**  
Governor WANG Xiankui represents the  
executive branch of government and is  
responsible to the Heilongjiang  
Provincial People's Congress.

**Currency:** \$1 CDN = 6.56 Yuan  
Renminbi (2011 average)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Petroleum,  
agriculture, coal, lumber, and heavy  
industry.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Following the recommendation of China's Ambassador to Canada, a protocol of understanding and friendship was signed by Alberta and Heilongjiang in 1981.
- Heilongjiang is twinned with Hokkaido prefecture in Japan, which is also Alberta's sister province in Japan.
- In 1985, Edmonton twinned with Harbin, Heilongjiang's capital city, and Calgary entered into a sister city relationship with Daqing.
- Heilongjiang is China's principal oil-producing province containing China's largest oil field, Daqing Oilfield.
- Alberta companies have been successful in supplying energy equipment and services to Heilongjiang. In 1998, Sunwing Energy Ltd. of Calgary was the first foreign company to produce oil in China.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- The year 2011 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heilongjiang-Alberta sister province relationship.
- Several government departments worked with the Heilongjiang government to organize events to mark the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Celebrations culminated with a winter ice carving festival in Alberta in January 2012 featuring a delegation of ice carvers from Heilongjiang, a gift from the Heilongjiang government.
- Similarities between Alberta and Heilongjiang include climate, topography, energy resources, and agricultural production.
- Mutual areas of interest and exchange include agriculture, energy, forestry, science and technology, medicine, culture, education and environmental protection.

- In 1998, Heilongjiang suffered its worst flooding in decades. Albertans responded by raising over \$200,000 CDN in private donations. The Alberta government made an additional \$100,000 CDN contribution to flood relief efforts and extended a special scholarship to Heilongjiang for skill development directly related to flood management.
- Over the years, several agricultural co-operation agreements, focused on livestock improvement, pasture management, beef and dairy cattle genetics technology, food processing research and development, have been signed between Heilongjiang and Alberta.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- China is Alberta's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trading partner. Alberta's trading relationship with China has more than tripled since 2003.
- Commercial activities with Heilongjiang have expanded beyond the petroleum sector and include coal gasification, petrochemical production and manufacturing, cattle breeding, forage seed, hides, and malting barley.
- In October 2011, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and BioAlberta hosted an Alberta-Heilongjiang Industry Roundtable. A delegation of industry, research and government representatives from Heilongjiang participated in the event. The Roundtable identified collaborative and business development opportunities, and potential access to the Chinese market for Alberta's biotechnology industry.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- In October 2010, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and the Heilongjiang Department of Sciences and Technology renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement on science and technology collaboration.
- In support of the MOU, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and the Heilongjiang Department of Science and Technology held a Water Technology Forum in Harbin in January 2011. The forum was also one of several organized for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang twinning.

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- There are 40 linkages and agreements between post-secondary institutions in Alberta and China, including Heilongjiang. Areas of co-operation include education, distance learning, engineering, agriculture, management, medicine, and Chinese language studies.
- The Royal Alberta Museum has developed strong links with Chinese cultural institutions bringing unique aspects of Chinese culture to Alberta. Examples include the "Rise of the Black Dragon" exhibits from the Jurchen Jin Dynasty and a Qing Dynasty exhibit from Heilongjiang.
- Heilongjiang and Alberta have shared paleontological research expertise.

## AGREEMENTS

- In 2009, Alberta's Leduc Food Processing Development Centre signed an agreement with the Daqing Food Processing Research and Development Centre in Heilongjiang.
- In 2006, Alberta signed a five-year agreement on comprehensive food safety standards with the Agriculture Committee of Heilongjiang.

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- China's accession to the World Trade Organization in December 2001 presents significant challenges to Heilongjiang's agrifood sector. As Heilongjiang addresses these challenges, there may be opportunities for additional co-operation between Alberta and Heilongjiang.
- Significant opportunity exists in water quality monitoring (consulting and technology) within China.

## RECENT VISITS

- May 2011: The Minister of Treasury Board and Enterprise led a mission to China, including Harbin, to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang sister province relationship.
- April 2011: The Executive Vice-Governor of Heilongjiang led a 10-person delegation to Edmonton to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alberta-Heilongjiang sister province relationship.

- October 2010: The Minister of Advanced Education and Technology led a mission to Beijing, Harbin, Daqing and Hong Kong to meet with government and industry leaders to strengthen innovation and educational bonds.
- May 2010: The Premiers of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan led a joint trade mission to China to promote trade and investment opportunities between Western Canada and Asia. The Premier of Alberta also met with the Governor of Heilongjiang in Shanghai at the 2010 Shanghai Expo.
- May 2010: The Vice Governor of Heilongjiang undertook an environment and technology mission to Alberta.
- October 2008: The Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development led a delegation to Harbin and Daqing to advance activities under existing co-operative agreements. In Daqing, the Minister visited the Daqing Food Processing Research and Development Centre at Heilongjiang August First Land Reclamation University.

