

Heilongjiang – Alberta Relations

Government of Alberta ■

International and Intergovernmental 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: 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 = 6.82 Yuan
Renminbi (April 2011)

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.
- The year 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the Heilongjiang-Alberta sister province relationship.
- 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

- 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

- Alberta's trading relationship with China has more than tripled since 2003. China is Alberta's 2nd largest trading partner.
- 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.

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.

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.

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 "Black Dragon Rising" 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.

RECENT VISITS

- April 2011: Executive Vice-Governor DU Jiahao of Heilongjiang led a 10-person delegation to Edmonton to commemorate the 30th 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: Premier Ed Stelmach, along with British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, led a joint trade mission to China to promote trade and investment opportunities between Western Canada and Asia. Premier Stelmach met with Governor Li Zhanshu of Heilongjiang in Shanghai at the 2010 Shanghai Expo.
- May 2010: The Vice Governor of Heilongjiang Madame Yu Shayan 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.
- June 2007: Visit to Alberta by a Heilongjiang agriculture, technology and post-secondary education delegation.
- May 2007: The Minister of Advanced Education and Technology led a delegation of industry, academic and government representative to China, including Heilongjiang, to help commercialize Alberta and Chinese technology and develop investment opportunities.

