

# Khanty-Mansii – Alberta Relations

International and Intergovernmental Relations

Alberta



## PROFILE

**Area:** 532,100 km<sup>2</sup>

**Capital:** Khanty-Mansiisk

**Other Major Centres:** Surgut, and Nizhnevartovsk

**Population:** 1.5 million (2006)

**Language:** Russian

**Government:** Khanty-Mansii is an autonomous okrug located within the Tyumen oblast. It is administered by a Governor & elected legislative council (Duma), and holds four seats in the bicameral Russian Federal Assembly: two in the Council of Federation and two in the federal State Duma.

### Head of Government:

Governor Aleksandr Filipenko (since 1996)

**Currency:** \$1 CDN = 26.35 Roubles (November 2007)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Oil and natural gas, forestry, and fishing

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Khanty-Mansii is divided into 22 municipal units, each of them governed by its own administration.
- Khanty-Mansiisk City is 2759 km from Moscow.
- Between 1991 and 2004, the population of Khanty-Mansii increased by 86,900 people to 1.5 million.
- Russians account for over 65% of the population, with Ukrainians being the largest minority group.
- The topography of Khanty-Mansii is very similar to that of Northern Alberta. The region is covered mostly by forests (52%) and swamp-land (39%).
- Like Alberta, Khanty-Mansii is rich in natural resources, especially oil.
- In 1997, Khanty-Mansii's Duma (Legislature) passed natural resource regulatory legislation based in part on Alberta's Energy Resource Conservation Board.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Both Alberta and Khanty-Mansii are members of the Northern Forum, an organization that brings together sub-national governments from a number of northern countries to address common political, environmental, and economic issues.
- The majority of Alberta companies working in the Russian oil patch are located in Khanty-Mansii.
- In February 1995, Alberta signed a cooperation agreement with Khanty-Mansii.
- Alberta has provided customized training programs to Khanty-Mansii government officials, on a cost-recovery basis, in the areas of public expenditure management, health care and secondary education administration.
- In 1995, Khanty-Mansii was Alberta's partner on the Oil & Gas Regulatory component of the CIDA funded Canada-Russia Collaborative Federalism Project.

## KHANTY-MANSII'S ECONOMY

- Oil and gas are the key natural resources of Khanty-Mansii, and the oil and gas industry plays a dominant role in the district's economy.
- Khanty-Mansii also has substantial timber resources, the estimated cutting is 29.2 million cubic meters of timber per year.
- The main exports of the district are oil and oil products, fuel, timber and timber products.

## ENERGY

- Khanty-Mansii is the source of about 58% of Russia's oil production, making Khanty-Mansii the third largest crude oil producer in the world, after Saudi Arabia and the United States.
- In 2004, Khanty-Mansii produced more than 5 million barrels per day (bbl/d). Comparatively, Alberta produced 1.7 million bbl/d.
- In 2004, Khanty-Mansii produced approximately 1 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas, about 4.4% of Russia's total production. Comparatively, Alberta produced 5 Tcf of natural gas in 2005, about 81% of Canada's total production.
- Khanty-Mansii is the largest producer of electricity and the 2nd largest producer of natural gas in Russia.
- In 2004, electricity production in Khanty-Mansii was 62.1 billion kilowatt hours (kWh).
- Numerous oil production associations based in Khanty-Mansii have sent staff to Alberta for training and to source technology and equipment.

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- High levels of oil production in Khanty-Mansii provide numerous opportunities for Alberta energy companies.
- Khanty-Mansii administrators are developing a modern public health system and are seeking the aid of Canadian firms.
- Rapid development of the oil industry, construction, and power engineering has led to a huge population growth, with more than one million people moving to Khanty-Mansii over the past 30 years. This pace of growth is creating an expanding market for products and services.
- There has been considerable progress in recent years in Khanty-Mansii regarding infrastructure improvement, and there are emerging opportunities in such fields as construction and telecommunications.

## ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

- The Khanty & Mansii people are indigenous to the area, but only account for 3% of the total population.
- The Khanty and Mansii people are a Finno-Uralic people distantly related to both Hungarians and Finns. They live primarily in rural areas and maintain a clan system as well as their traditional religion and language. Many support themselves through traditional methods of fishing, hunting, and trapping.
- The indigenous population in Khanty-Mansii has concerns with how its traditional way of life is being affected by increasing industrialization. It faces many of the same challenges of other indigenous populations throughout the world.

## RECENT VISITS

- December 2007: A delegation from Khanty-Mansii visited Alberta and met with Treaty 8 Grand Chief Arthur Noskey and Dene Tha' Chief James Ahnassay regarding economically developing areas traditionally inhabited by indigenous people.
- April 2007: A delegation from Khanty-Mansii visited Alberta on a CIDA-funded study tour under the [Canada-Russian Northern Development Partnership Program \(NORDEP\)](#).
- August 2005: A delegation from Khanty-Mansii, led by First Deputy Chairman Novitskiy, visited Alberta in honour of Alberta's Centennial.
- July 2002: A delegation from Khanty-Mansii's Neftegaz.ru Information Agency visited Alberta to produce a video documentary highlighting Alberta's energy industry.
- February 2002: Governor Filipenko met with Premier Klein in Moscow during the Team Canada Trade Mission.
- December 2001: A delegation of Khanty-Mansii youth participated in the Northern Forum's first Youth EcoForum, held in Edmonton.
- March 2000: Khanty-Mansii parliamentarians visited Alberta to study oil & gas regulation.

## DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Russian Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Georgy Mamedov.
- The Canadian Ambassador to Russia is Mr. Ralph Lysyshyn (with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Armenia).