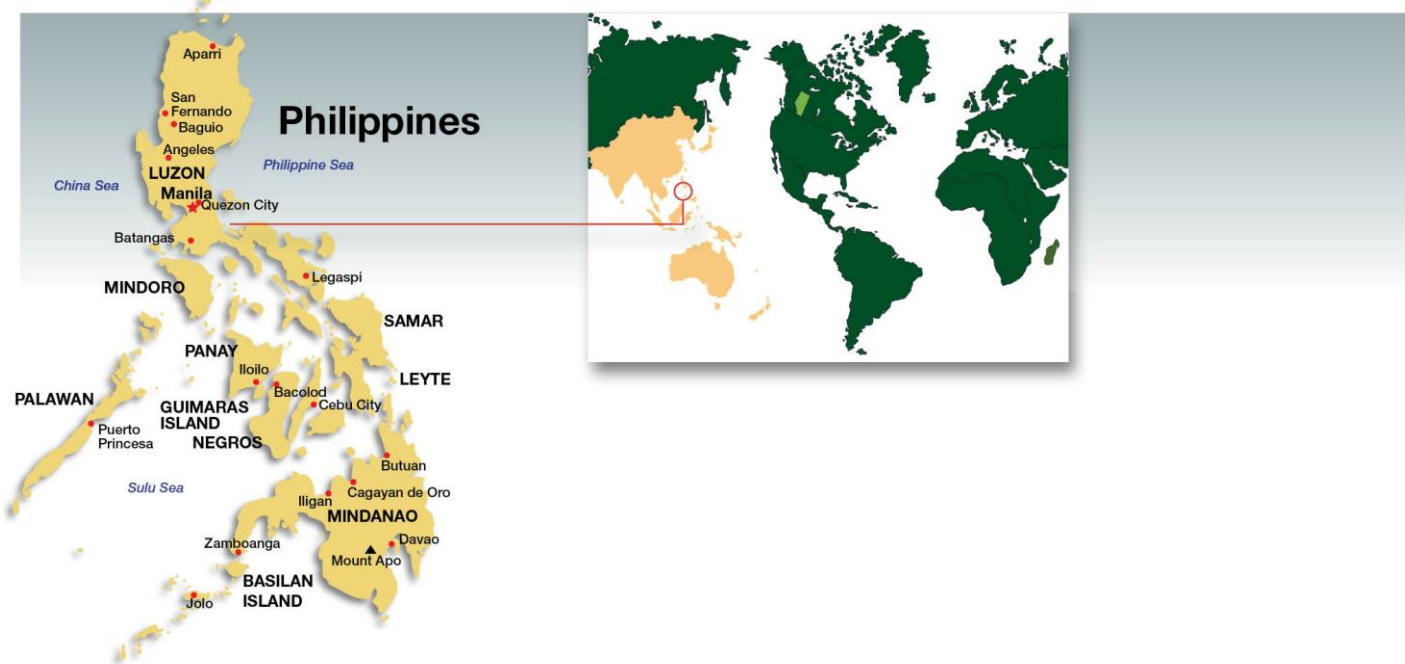


# Philippines – Alberta Relations

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:** Manila

**Population:** 99.9 million (2010 est.)

**Official Languages:** Filipino (based on Tagalog), and English

**Government:** Presidential Republic

**Head of State/Government:** President Benigno Aquino (since June 30, 2010)

**Currency:** \$1 CDN = 43.0 Philippine Peso (PHP) (November 2010)

**GDP:** \$161.1 billion US (2009)

**GDP (PPP):** \$324.3 billion US (2009)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** \$3,310 US (2009)

**GDP growth rate:** 1.1% (2009)

**Inflation:** 3.2% (2009)

**Unemployment:** 7.5% (2009)

**Key Industry Sectors:** textiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics assembly, chemicals, wood products, food processing, petroleum refining, fishing.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Philippines is an archipelago made up of 7,107 islands and is favourably located in relation to many of Southeast Asia's main water

bodies: the South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea, and the Luzon Strait.

- The Philippines is a founding member of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Canada is also a founding member of this 21-member regional forum, established in 1989, to further enhance economic growth and prosperity for the Asia-Pacific region.
- The Philippines is a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The 10-member association was established in 1967.

## OVERVIEW

- In 1946, the Philippines attained full independence after being a US protectorate (1898-1945) and a Spanish colony (1565-1898).
- Since 1946, two peaceful popular movements dubbed as "people power revolutions" have forced Presidents to step down (Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001).
- Ms. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo succeeded Mr. Estrada as President in January 2001. Under Ms. Arroyo's leadership, the Philippines continued to make progress on economic reforms providing new incentives for foreign investment, and privatizing and

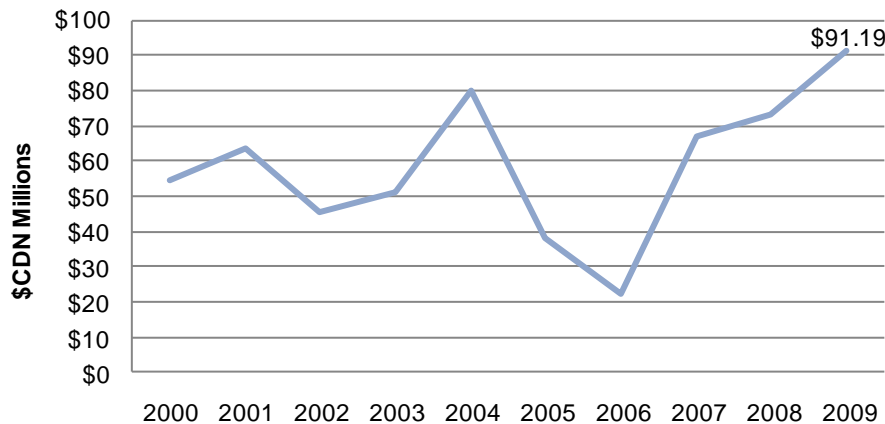
deregulating industries; particularly the agriculture, telecommunications, and power-generating industries.

- Benigno Aquino won the 2010 presidential election by a record margin of more than 5 million votes.
- On the southern island of Mindanao, the Philippine government faces threats from three terrorist groups that have been fighting for a separate Islamic state. The conflicts have been ongoing since the late 1960's and have claimed many lives. Despite ongoing peace talks and a cease-fire, sporadic violence has continued.

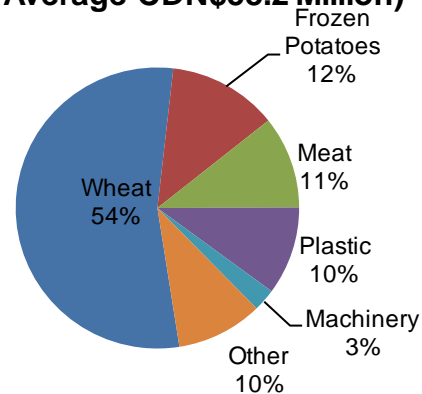
## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Over the past decade, the Government of Alberta has contributed nearly \$300,000 in matching grants to Alberta-based non-government organizations for humanitarian and social aid projects exclusively in the Philippines. These programs are delivered in the Philippines, with the assistance of Albertans, and include projects focused on poverty alleviation, income generation and self help opportunities, increasing computer literacy, as well as providing emergency disaster relief assistance.

## Alberta's Exports to the Philippines (2000-2009)



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to the Philippines 2005-2009 (Total Average CDN\$58.2 Million)



### RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- In 2008, Alberta and the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding to help ease labour shortages and improve the flow of Filipino workers into the province.
- The Philippines has consistently been one of the top three source countries for immigration to Alberta.

### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- In 2009, Alberta's merchandise exports to the Philippines totaled approximately \$91 million CDN.
- Alberta's 2009 exports were dominated by wheat, but also included frozen potatoes, plastic and meat.
- Between 2005 and 2009, Alberta's direct imports from the Philippines averaged approximately \$13.4 million CDN per year, consisting primarily of electrical machinery. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

### ENERGY

- The Philippines has 3 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of proven natural gas reserves (2009) compared to Alberta's 39.8 tcf (2009). Since 2001, the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project has been a significant source of natural gas for the Philippines.
- The Philippines' power situation is critical due to increasing power demands, retirement of several plants, a lack of investments in new energy infrastructure and the available power supply has become increasingly unreliable.
- In 2008, the Renewable Energy Act was implemented to maximize the country's renewable power resources including geothermal, hydropower,

biomass, solar and wind. The Philippines is currently the world's second largest supplier of geothermal energy and 10% of the country's electricity demand is supplied by hydropower generation.

- The Philippine Government's long-term development of energy sources could provide opportunities for Alberta's companies.

### EDUCATION

- The University of Calgary's Faculty of Medicine cooperates with the Zamboanga Medical School Foundation, on the island of Mindanao, to provide medical training to nurses and other medical professions.

### COMMUNITY

- In 2009, approximately 4,647 immigrants (17% of total international immigration to Alberta in 2009) arrived in Alberta from the Philippines.
- Over 39,000 Albertans are of Filipino descent.
- Active Filipino community organizations have been established throughout the province including the Council of Edmonton Filipino Associations, which participates in Edmonton's annual Heritage Days with a Philippine Pavilion.
- CKER-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, including Filipino.

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities to invest in the Philippines exist in mining, agriculture production, food processing, infrastructure development, and the pulp and paper industry.

- Environmental and information communication technologies, as well as mining and financial services are among those with the greatest potential for Alberta exports.
- The Philippines imports more than 90% of its medical equipment and technology. Opportunities exist for Alberta companies who can meet the demand for equipment upgrades, and the need for new technologies and enhanced services.
- Other opportunities exist in the construction sector for materials and equipment.

### VISITS

- September/October 2008: Hector Goudreau, former Minister of Employment and Immigration, led a mission to the Philippines to discuss improving labour mobility and the attraction of skilled workers in high demand occupations to Alberta.
- May 2007: Philippines' Ambassador Jose Brillantes visited Alberta.
- May 2002: The Philippines' Ambassador to Canada visited Alberta as part of the ASEAN-Ottawa Committee's Trade and Business mission.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Ms. Minerva Jean Falcon is the Philippines' Deputy Head of Mission & Chargé d'affaires in Canada.
- Mr. Christopher Thornley is Canada's Ambassador to the Philippines.
- Mrs. Esmerelda Agbulos is the Philippines' Honorary Consul General in Edmonton.
- Mr. Felixberto Guerrero is the Philippines' Honorary Consul General in Calgary.

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