

# Taiwan – Alberta Relations

Government of Alberta ■  
International and Intergovernmental Relations



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Taipei

**Population:** 22.7 million (2008 est.)

**Language:** Mandarin (official), Taiwanese, and Hakka dialects

**Government:** Parliamentary Democracy

**President:** President MA Ying-jeou [Kuomintang] (May 2008)

**Head of Government:** Premier LIU Chao-shiuan (May 2008)

**Currency:** \$1 CDN = 28.2 Taiwanese Dollar (May 2009)

**GDP:** US\$ 392.1 billion (2008)

**GDP (PPP):** US\$ 801.7 billion (2008 est.)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US\$ 35,324 (2008)

**GDP growth rate:** 4.2% (2004-2008 average)

**Inflation:** 2.0% (2008)

**Unemployment:** 4.1% (2008)

**Key Industry Sectors:** electronics, petroleum refining, armaments, chemicals, textiles, iron and steel, machinery, cement, food processing, vehicles, consumer products, pharmaceuticals.

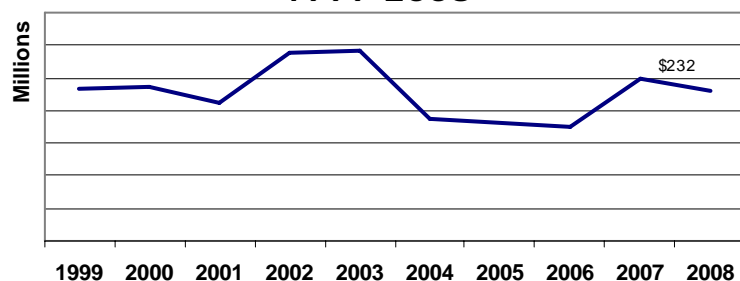
## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has maintained a presence in Taipei since 1988. The Alberta Office is co-located with the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.
- Taiwan ranks as Alberta's 8th largest export market.
- There is significant Taiwanese investment in Alberta's petrochemical industry and in the retail food business (i.e., T&T Asian food store chain).

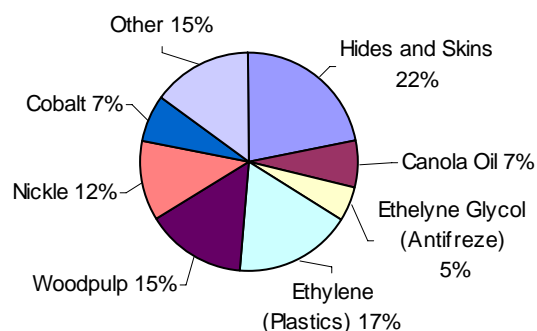
## CANADA'S "ONE CHINA" POLICY

- Canada does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan. With the support of the Canadian Government, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce opened the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (CTOT) in 1986 to facilitate and increase two-way trade, investment as well as academic and cultural links. Additionally, the CTOT provides the same support services as other Canadian missions abroad.
- Taiwan does not have a Diplomatic or Consular Mission accredited to Canada. Their private-sector offices are staffed from several departments and agencies in Taiwan to promote trade and culture under the auspices of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices (TECO) in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, and the Far East Trade Service Inc. (FETS) in Montreal.

## Alberta's Exports to Taiwan 1999-2008



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Taiwan 2004-2008 Average (Total \$205 million)



### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2004-2008, Alberta's exports to Taiwan averaged \$205 million per year and were primarily made up of polyethylene, raw hides and skins, canola oil, woodpulp, nickel, and cobalt.
- From 2004-2008, Alberta's direct imports from Taiwan averaged \$170 million per year and included telecommunications equipment, metal fixtures and electronics. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta after first being delivered to distribution hubs in other provinces.

### AGRICULTURE

- In 2008, Alberta's agri-food exports to Taiwan totaled \$84.1 million, consisting mainly of hides and skins (\$41 million), canola/mustard oil (\$6 million), processed potatoes (\$4.6 million), beef (\$5.8 million), and pork (\$3.4 million).
- In June 2007, Taiwan announced that it would resume imports of boneless beef from animals under 30 months of age. In taking this action, Taiwan has recognized the effectiveness of Canada's BSE safeguards and has partially restored access to one of Canada's most significant beef export markets. Prior to the market closure, Alberta had considered Taiwan a priority market, and the Canada Beef Export Federation had set a goal to become Taiwan's third largest beef supplier.
- As a result of the increasing demand for pork in Asia and the devastating effects of foot and mouth disease on domestic stocks in the 1990s, Taiwan

has invested heavily in offshore swine production.

### EDUCATION

- A number of Alberta post-secondary institutions have partnerships with Taiwan:
  - The University of Alberta and National Chiao Tung University.
  - Olds College and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology.
  - The University Of Calgary Haskayne School Of Business and National Chengchi University as well as National Sun Yet Sen University.
  - The University of Lethbridge and National Sun Yat-sen University.

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Alberta focuses on attracting Taiwanese investment in sectors such as agri-food (with links to health, diet or the environment, such as bottled water or fruits and vegetables), high-tech (including nanotechnology, biotechnology, telecommunications, environmental products and services and high-tech materials), pharmaceutical products, chemicals and oil sands production.
- In March 2008, an Alberta delegation visited Taiwan to promote Canadian wood products and share sustainable and green design practices with

architects, engineers and builders in Taiwan.

- An Alberta technology delegation recently visited Taiwan to develop partnerships in science and technology and to identify potential technology commercialization opportunities for Albertan companies.
- Taiwan has made large investments in nanotechnology research in hopes of becoming a leader in this industry.
- Increased urbanization and globalization of the Taiwanese market has created opportunities for "western style" supermarket chains, as well as imported processed and packaged food products.

### COMMUNITY

- There are roughly 137,000 Albertans of Chinese descent, including approximately 650 Albertans who have identified themselves as being of Taiwanese origin.

### REPRESENTATION

- The Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is Mr. Ron MacIntosh.
- The Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver is Mr. KUNG Chung-Chen.
- Alberta's representative in Taiwan is Ms. Li-an CHEN.

