

Yamal-Nenets – Alberta Relations

Government of Alberta ■
International and Intergovernmental Relations



PROFILE

Area: 750,000 km² (the largest administrative region of Tyumen)

Capital: Salekhard

Other Major Centres: Noyabrsk and Novy Urengoy

Population: 507,400 (2002 Census)

Language: Russian, Nentsi

Government: Yamal-Nenets is an autonomous Okrug located within the Tyumen oblast. It is administered by a Governor & elected legislative council (Duma), and holds three seats in the Russian Federal Assembly: two in the Council of Federation and one in the federal State Duma.

Head of Government:

Governor Dmitry Kobylkin (appointed February 2010)

Currency: \$1 CDN = 29.49 Roubles;
1 Rouble = \$0.03 CDN (July 2010)

Key Industry Sectors: Natural gas, oil, and minerals (manganese, phosphorus & rare precious metals).

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1993, the new Russian constitution granted Yamal-Nenets an enhanced autonomous status within the Tyumen oblast.
- Yamal-Nenets is located in the center of northern Siberia in the Russian Far North. More than 50% of the area lies north of the Arctic Circle.
- The Nenets peoples of Yamal are indigenous to the area. Many have maintained their traditional nomadic way of life and still travel by sled and reindeer, live in tepee-like structures called chum, exist off the land, and worship their own deities.
- Russians account for approximately 60% of the population, with Ukrainians being the largest minority group.
- In 2005, the same year Alberta celebrated its Centennial, Yamal-Nenets' celebrated its 75th year as an autonomous region.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Commercial relations between Alberta and the western Siberian region of Yamal-Nenets are long-standing and focus on the gas industry.
- Until 2010, both Alberta and Yamal-Nenets were 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. Alberta withdrew its membership in 2010.
- On December 1, 1997 Alberta signed a co-operation agreement with Yamal-Nenets, covering such matters as education, training and aboriginal issues.
- Alberta has provided customized training programs to Yamal-Nenets government officials, on a cost recovery basis, in the areas of public expenditure management, healthcare, and secondary education administration.

YAMAL-NENETS ECONOMY

- Yamal-Nenets receives considerable foreign investment, totaling 6% of all foreign capital investment in Russia.
- Natural gas production remains the most important sector of Yamal-Nenets' economy.
- Yamal-Nenets is home to 70% of Russia's stock of white salmon. Fishing remains an important economic activity.
- The northern Ural Mountains in western Yamal-Nenets contain vast mineral resources.
- Other important industries include the processing of canned fish, hydroelectricity, forestry, fur farming, reindeer herding, and woodworking.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Yamal-Nenets' large gas reserves make it an important strategic partner for Alberta, and may enable Alberta to access other sectors and regions.
- Areas for future growth and development in Yamal-Nenets include: infrastructure improvement, construction, energy and environmental regulatory systems, medical equipment and training, education and training, and aboriginal affairs.

ENERGY

- The Yamal-Nenets region contains over 75% of Russia's natural gas reserves and 10% of its oil reserves.
- The oil and gas industry in Yamal-Nenets is 93% of the area's total industrial production.
- The Yamal-Nenets region produces over 90% of Russia's natural gas and 12% of its oil.
- In September 2009, Russian state-run Gazprom signed co-operation agreement with Yamal-Nenets to explore the potential for gas exploitation and the development of new gas pipelines.

- On January 28, 2010, Gazprom, PGNiG and Europol Gaz signed an agreement for long-term gas co-operation, including extending natural gas supply from Russia to Poland until 2037 and transporting gas to Western Europe through Polish territory by the "Yamal-Europe" pipeline until 2045.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Previous training programs in Alberta for officials from Yamal-Nenets have deepened ties and encouraged Yamal-Nenets to look to Alberta when sourcing infrastructure development, and equipment and training partnerships.
- Yamal-Nenets participated for the first time as a guest contingent in the 18th Arctic Winter Games (AWG), which were held in Fort McMurray in March 2004. The 37-member team competed in traditional winter sport events. The AWG is held every other year and brings together over 2,000 young amateur athletes from regions north of the 55th parallel. Yamal-Nenets also participated in the 19th and the 20th AWG held respectively in the Kenai Peninsula (Alaska) (2006), Yellowknife (2008) and Grande Prairie (2010).

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

- Seven indigenous populations, including the Nentsi and Khanty peoples, inhabit the Yamal-Nenets Okrug.
- The indigenous peoples in Yamal-Nenets number over 35,000 and many continue to live by reindeer herding.
- Assuring a sustainable future for its indigenous population's way of life is a significant challenge for the Okrug administration. Difficulties include balancing the growth of the petroleum industry to mitigate the loss of pastureland necessary for the indigenous way of life.

RECENT VISITS

- June 2006: A delegation from Yamal-Nenets visited Alberta on a CIDA-funded study tour under the Canada-Russian Northern Development Partnership Program (NORDEP).
- July 2005: Yamal-Nenets' Duma Chairman, the Honourable Sergey Kharvuchi, headed a large delegation and cultural exhibit to Edmonton's Klondike Days to celebrate Alberta's Centennial.
- February 2003: Yamal-Nenets' Governor, Mr. Yuri Neyelov, met with Premier Klein in Calgary.
- February 2002: Yamal-Nenets' Deputy Governor met with Premier Klein in Moscow during the Team Canada Trade Mission.
- September 2000: Former Alberta Municipal Affairs Minister, the Honourable Walter Paszkowski, accompanied by Member of the Legislative Assembly LeRoy Johnson, led an Alberta delegation to Yamal-Nenets.
- June 2000: Governor Neyelov made his fourth visit to Alberta to attend the World Petroleum Congress and met with Premier Klein and Minister of IIR.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Russian Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Georgy Mamedov.
- The Canadian Ambassador to Russia is Mr. John Sloan.
- Russia's Honorary Consul in Alberta is Mr. Sergey Timoschenko.
- Mr. Boris Belostotsky is Yamal-Nenets' representative in Alberta.

