

Canada-China Relations

- In 1970, Canada established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. That relationship has developed significantly over the years, resulting in expanded government and commercial ties. Today, more than 100 Canadian companies have offices in China, and two-way trade has grown to about \$8.5 billion a year. Development co-operation programs have expanded in support of economic co-operation, sustainable development, human rights, democratic development and good governance in China.
- Canada-China relations have expanded considerably since the Prime Minister led a Team Canada mission to China in 1994. The largest mission ever mounted, it included federal ministers, provincial premiers and territorial leaders and close to 400 Canadian business representatives. The Team Canada mission demonstrated Canada's commitment to strengthening ties with China and has resulted in expanded contacts on all levels.
- Since China adopted its program of economic reform in 1978, its output has grown by an average of nine per cent a year. China now attracts almost one-third of foreign direct investment flows to developing countries. It is the world's 10th largest trading nation and home to one-fifth of the world's population.
- China's influence continues to grow. It is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a nuclear weapons state with the world's largest active forces, and a participant in regional groups, such as the Association of South East Asian Nations Regional Forum, which deals with security issues.
- China's stability, reform and sustainable economic growth are important to Canada. The main objective of Canada has been to encourage China to maintain its open-door policy and to become fully integrated in global and regional political and economic institutions.
- Canada believes that only through systematic and wide-ranging contact will it be able to encourage greater openness and freedom in China and advance Canadian interests there. Canada is committed to helping China develop policies and institutions that enhance sustainable development by recognizing the relationship among economic growth, social development and environmental protection.