

Canada-China Relations

General

- Canada-China relations have been enhanced significantly over the past year. Last November, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien led the Team Canada trade mission to China. The largest ever Canadian delegation to China, it included nine provincial premiers, two territorial leaders and close to 400 Canadian business representatives.
- The Team Canada mission was the culmination of several high-level bilateral visits in 1994. These visits help Canada develop a broad relationship, engaging China in four key areas: economic partnership; sustainable development; human rights, good governance and the rule of law; and peace and security.
- Given China's economic growth and potential, Canada is positioning itself now to build an economic partnership that will create jobs and prosperity at home, as well as benefit the people of China.
- Sustainable development is an integral component of Canada's policy towards China. Canada seeks to assist China — the world's largest consumer of coal — in managing its environment to the benefit of the global environment.
- Canada continues to work in multilateral forums to ensure that China respects its obligations under the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Canada continues to raise concerns over the detention of political dissidents and the general lack of political freedoms in China.
- Canada has engaged China in a sustained and substantive dialogue on non-proliferation questions and regional security, with a view to encouraging China to exercise responsible international behaviour with respect to arms sales and the early and successful conclusion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- Canada has a direct interest in the smooth transition of Hong Kong from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. We have urged both China and the United Kingdom to co-operate in ensuring Hong Kong's continued stability and prosperity.
- Canada has an embassy in Beijing and a consulate in Shanghai. It has also established a trade office in Guangzhou (formerly Canton), in Guangdong province, the heart of the fast-growing southern region of China.