

Delta, a triangular region composed of Shanghai, southern Jiangsu province and northern Zhejiang province.

With more than 70 employees in the Consulate General offering a full range of services, including consular and visa, as well as trade and political relations, the Shanghai team reflects the next generation of Canadian diplomats—youthful, dynamic, multilingual, multicultural, branding themselves as the “MTV of Canada’s foreign service.”

A TRADING POWERHOUSE

Though the Consulate General offers a full spectrum of services to Canadians, much of its work remains commercial. Today’s bilateral trading relationship with China amounts to more than \$40 billion a year. In a visit to China this past April, Minister of International Trade Stockwell Day announced Canada’s goal to triple bilateral trade with the country over the next decade. The commercial team in Shanghai is poised to rise to this challenge—planning to extend its reach this year, for example, by opening and managing two new trade offices up the Yangtze River in the cities of Nanjing and Wuhan, each home to almost 10 million people.

More than 150 Canadian companies are headquartered in the Consulate General’s territory, representing evolving and complex commercial interests. These include multinationals such as Manulife, which launched operations in China more than a hundred years ago, and Magna International, which has 20 manufacturing and R&D facilities in China and headquarters in Shanghai. Small and medium-sized enterprises such as EHC Global and service companies such as SNC-Lavalin and IMAX are also thriving, despite the global economic slowdown. The recently minted Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai boasts nearly 200 members and is expected to grow. Priority sectors include automotive, life sciences, ICT, agriculture and agri-food, fish and seafood, building products, education and environment.

ADVANCING CANADIAN INTERESTS

Alongside the growth of Canadian commercial interests has come a need for political dialogue and understanding. The Consulate General contributes to the bilateral relationship on many levels, from health and governance initiatives to human rights and cultural exchanges. Recent examples include a series of round-table discussions on action on violence against women, a Canada-Shanghai health cooperation initiative, an outreach tour by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and an

extravaganza for La Francophonie with Canadian hip-hop band Accrophone.

The Shanghai team is preparing for a number of events next year designed to reinforce Canada-China relations, including the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games, the G8 Summit in Canada and the 40th anniversary of Canada-China diplomatic relations.

BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

Shanghai is gearing up to host Expo 2010 from May 1 to October 30 next year, and Canada is preparing to join in the celebrations. As many as 90 million people are expected to attend the world’s fair, which has a theme of “better city, better life,” examining the challenges of sustainable urban development. The theme of the Canada pavilion is “the living city: inclusive, sustainable, creative.”

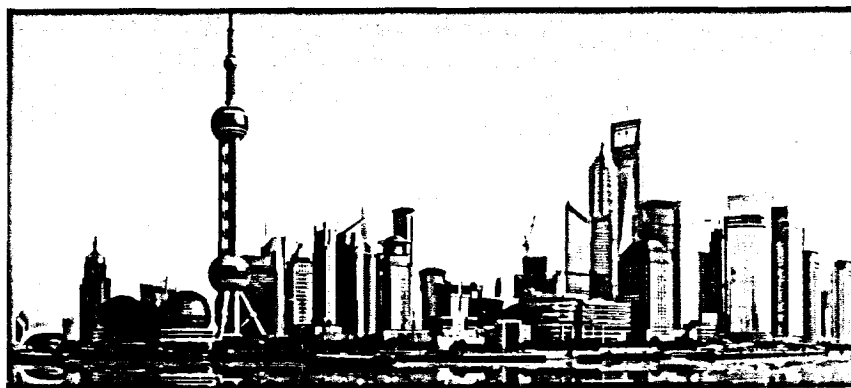
“We will present Canada to the world as the modern, democratic, bilingual, multicultural country that it is,” says newly arrived Consul General Nadir Patel, formerly Canada’s Chief Air Negotiator. “We are a country with successful, sustainable cities that are innovative, creative and prosperous; ideal for visiting, studying, working and living.” The Canada Pavilion, designed by Cirque du Soleil and being built by SNC-Lavalin, will be a “must-see,” with its cutting-edge exhibition technology, engaging presentations, creative programming and knowledgeable young hosts.

Looking to the next 100 years, Patel adds, “China’s role in the world will continue to grow and Shanghai’s role within China will become even more crucial. There hasn’t been a more exciting time to be in Shanghai.” To celebrate its centennial, the Consulate General created a logo that reads in Chinese “Canada in Shanghai.” In Chinese it sounds like “Home in Shanghai.”

Did you know?

Former trade minister Pat Carney was born in Shanghai. In her memoir *Trade Secrets*, she calls it “one of the most exciting cities in the world, pulsing with energy, very historic.”

The Yangtze River Delta region encompasses a GDP by purchasing power parity of more than \$2 trillion, or about one quarter of China’s national economy, and is one of the most densely populated regions on earth.



The Pudong financial district boasts the Oriental Pearl Tower, the third-tallest tower in the world, and the Shanghai World Financial Centre, the tallest building in China.