

Canada-China Relations

Bilateral

- Canada-China relations have been enhanced significantly over the past year. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's visit this November is the culmination of several high-level visits in 1994. Visits to China were made by Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn, Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet, International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Ralph Goodale and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. Chinese Vice-Premier Zou Jiahua travelled to Canada in April. The Prime Minister will lead the largest-ever Canadian delegation to China, including nine provincial premiers and close to 300 Canadian business representatives.
- High-level visits assist Canada in its policy of developing a broadly based 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.
- 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 continues to work in multilateral fora to ensure that China respects its obligations under the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. Canada continues to raise concerns over the detention of political dissidents and the general lack of political freedoms in 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 — to manage its environment to the benefit of the global environment.
- Canada supports the current efforts to bring a greater measure of democracy to Hong Kong. We have made it clear to China that we expect Hong Kong's transition to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 will happen according to the 1984 Basic Law and Joint Declaration between China and the U.K., and that it will be smooth, ensuring Hong Kong's continued stability and prosperity.