

# Canada-Hong Kong Relations

## General

- In July 1997, the territory of Hong Kong will revert to Chinese sovereignty and is expected to maintain its role as the business centre for all of south China. Canada is committed to supporting Hong Kong during the period of transition leading up to 1997 and to helping ensure its long-term stability and prosperity.
- Continuity is the key to a successful transition. Canada has urged Great Britain and China to make full use of the remaining time before transition to put into place processes that ensure this continuity. Extraordinary effort is required on all sides to co-operate and engage in an open dialogue.
- Canada and Hong Kong enjoy close relations, originally forged by trade, but cemented over time by ties of education, culture and family. These ties are building bridges and contributing to prosperity in both Canada and Hong Kong.
- Canada's Commission for Hong Kong was established in 1928, as Canada's second-ever diplomatic mission.
- The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Canada and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council have opened in Toronto.
- During World War II, more than 300 Canadians died in the defence of Hong Kong. Their sacrifice is commemorated every December in a ceremony at Sai Wan Cemetery. In addition, the Osborn statue in Hong Kong Park honours the memory of Sergeant Major John Osborn of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his exceptional heroism.
- A number of high-level visits over the last year have helped to strengthen relations, including visits by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in November 1994 and Lucienne Robillard, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, in April 1996. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) will visit Hong Kong in May 1996 as a follow-up to the visit to Canada by Governor Christopher Patten.

## Trade and Investment

- Extensive commercial ties between Canada and Hong Kong include the presence of more than 100 Canadian corporations, all major Canadian chartered banks and several insurance companies.