

Chronology of Canada-China Relations

1970

- Canada and the People's Republic of China establish diplomatic relations following 22 months of negotiations in Stockholm.

1971

- The Government of the People's Republic of China becomes a member of the United Nations.
- A chargé d'affaires is sent to Peking (now called Beijing) to establish a Canadian diplomatic mission.
- Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jean-Luc Pepin leads the first official Canadian delegation to China.

1972

- Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, leads a delegation to China. A Canadian trade fair held in Beijing during the visit attracts some 600 Canadian officials and business leaders. This event marks the first visit to a foreign trade fair by Premier Zhou Enlai.
- The first official sports exchange is made. China sends table tennis players, swimmers and divers to Canada. Canada sends ice skaters, a basketball team and badminton players to China.

1973

- Canada and China sign a memorandum of understanding on family reunification.
- An air link between the two countries is established with the signing of the Civil Air Transport Agreement, which allows for a direct air route between Canada and China without passing through a third country.
- Canada and China sign a trade agreement allowing for the formal extension of most-favoured-nation trading status.

1974

- China opens a consulate general in Vancouver.
- The first Chinese immigrants arrive in Canada under the terms of the family reunification memorandum of understanding.