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The numbers tell the story of Canada's strong trading relationship with China:

- China and Hong Kong together form Canada's fourth-largest trading partner, with two-way trade reaching almost \$19 billion in 2001—a 13% increase from the previous year.
- More than 400 Canadian companies have a permanent presence in China and Hong Kong, a figure that has doubled in only six years.
- During the February 2001 Team Canada trade mission to China, Canadian and Chinese businesses signed some 293 agreements worth over \$15 billion. This was the largest-ever Team Canada trade mission, involving more than 600 participants—the second such mission to China.
- The stock of direct investment in Canada by China (not including Hong Kong) totalled \$215 million in 2000, up from \$54 million in 1991. Over the same period, Canada's stock of direct investment in China rose even more rapidly, from \$25 million to \$734 million.

China's accession to the WTO will build on this already positive and productive relationship, creating a new framework for trade and investment. Strong, efficient rules will give Canadian entrepreneurs more reasons to deepen existing projects in China or to launch new ventures.

NEW CHINESE COMMITMENTS

As a WTO member, China has undertaken to:

- phase out nearly 400 non-tariff measures that hinder trade, such as import licences, import quotas, price controls and tendering requirements;
- reduce industrial tariffs from an average of 16.3% in 1999 to 9.2% in 2005;
- reduce agricultural and agri-food tariffs from 21.4% to 15.1%; and
- give foreign enterprises in China the same treatment as domestic firms (national treatment).



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