

Today, the Canada-China relationship is multi-dimensional — based on a growing trade and investment partnership, our mutual interest in global and regional environmental and security issues, and the considerable ties between Canadian and Chinese people.

China has become far more than one of Canada's largest markets for wheat; close to half of Canadian exports to China are now value-added manufactured goods. Canada and China now exchange over \$6 billion worth of goods and services a year. China is now Canada's second most important trading partner in Asia-Pacific and our fifth largest export market in the world.

Since the Canadian embassy was first established in Beijing, Canada has expanded its presence in China, opening consulates in Shanghai and Guangzhou. More than 100 Canadian companies now operate in China. Ties between Canadian and Chinese provinces and cities have grown considerably through "twinning" agreements, which establish close co-operation between organizations or governments with similar economic and cultural interests. At the academic level, there are similar ties between several Canadian and Chinese universities. More than 2,500 Chinese students study at universities across Canada.

Canada also has a thriving development co-operation program with China. Begun in 1981 with a \$4 million contribution toward food aid, the Canadian International Development Agency's program with China now includes 25 operational projects and 17 planned projects. Operational activities range from energy, oil and gas, forestry and agriculture projects to management education and institutional links. Planned projects include the training of judges, the promotion of women in development, managerial and environmental training for small and medium-sized business, energy efficiency in construction and the development of China's Tarim Basin.

Current programming, expected to be worth \$36 million in 1995-96, emphasizes economic co-operation, the environment, and good governance. In addition, CIDA's Industrial Co-operation Program now provides more than \$8 million a year to Canadian firms exploring joint ventures and other opportunities in China. CIDA projects have introduced a spectrum of Canadian firms and institutions to China.

Another connection between Canada and China is the fact that about three per cent of the Canadian population is of Chinese origin. Chinese is the third most widely spoken language in Canada.

With the solid foundation that has been built over the last 25 years, Canada-China relations are expected to deepen over the next quarter century and beyond.