

- Many of China's import and infrastructure requirements correspond to Canada's prime export strengths, especially in areas such as telecommunications, oil and gas, power generation, the environment, transportation, mining and petrochemicals, and agriculture.
- Canada has consistently supported the efforts of the Chinese government to open its markets by extending it most-favoured-nation trading status. This status gives China access to the Canadian market on the same basis as most other trading partners. Canada also supports China's application for entry into the World Trade Organization, which would give Canadian businesses better access to the Chinese market.
- Canada's Export Development Corporation plays a critical role in financing value-added exports to China. EDC offers concessional and non-concessional lines of credit to companies doing business in China. Concessional credits are available for non-commercial projects.
- Chinese authorities are actively encouraging foreign investment. Several Canadian firms, especially the larger ones with world-renowned technology, have invested \$1.8 billion in China since the early 1970s. While the investment environment is slowly improving, Canadian small and medium-sized businesses are also starting to pay attention to China as an investment destination.
- More than 100 Canadian companies have offices in China, and Canadian firms are increasingly interested in expanding operations there.

Academic and Cultural Relations

- Canada-China academic relations date back more than 50 years. In 1941, Professor Chian Wei Chang became the first Chinese person to graduate from a Canadian university, the University of Toronto. He later played an important role in developing Canadian studies programs in China during his presidency at the Shanghai University of Technology. He was also vice-president of the Chinese Democratic Party.
- For the past 15 years or so, Chinese interest in Canadian studies has increased considerably. At present, there are nearly 20 Canadian studies centres in China, plus a Chinese Canadian Studies Association. Canada spends nearly \$250,000 a year in developing Canadian studies programs in China.