

ii) Political

Canada has a "one China" policy, which recognizes the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate government of China. Canada does not support Taiwan's bid for membership in the United Nations as the "Republic of China."

Although Canada and Taiwan do not have formal diplomatic relations, substantial informal ties have evolved. The Canadian Trade Office in Taipei was opened in 1986, and is now staffed by EAITC personnel on secondment to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Taiwan is represented in Canada by personnel of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices, which are located in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver.

Ministerial-level visits, on a private basis, have taken place, commencing with former Trade Minister Wilson's visit to Taipei in September 1992. The most recent high-level visitor was Dr. C.S. Liu, Taiwan's Minister of Transportation and Communication, who paid a private visit to Canada in September 1993.