## Canada Weekly

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Canadian climbers ski to top of Chinese mountain

A team of 16 Canadians will mount an expedition this September to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. Canadian mountaineers preparing for the expedition have already made successful trial climbs on Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, Mount Annapurna IV in Nepal and Mount Muz Tagh Ata in China. In the following article, Patrick Morrow, one of four Canadians who took part in the climb of Muz Tagh Ata last September, describes the team's experiences during that expedition.

Ours was the first Canadian mountaineering expedition to enter China. Four of us, members of the 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition, sponsored by Air Canada, undertook the ascent of Muz Tagh Ata, rising 7 456 metres in the Chinese Pamir, as a training climb.

The leader of the climb, John Amatt, business manager of the Everest expedition, had obtained permission from the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) for the group to visit this remote part of the country. Lloyd Gallagher, another team member, had enjoyed a memorable career as a guide for Canadian Mountain Holidays. He had spearheaded the successful Canadian Pumiri Expedition of 1977 in Nepal. Dr. Stephen Bezruchka, the group's climbing doctor, having practised for several years at a health centre in the remote western hill region of Nepal, was well prepared for any mountain emergency we might encounter. Pat Morrow, a professional adventure photographer and a dedicated cross country skier, was the only one of us to bring nordic equipment to climb the mountain.

China's national airline, CAAC, took us the 4 200 kilometres to Urumoui, capital of Kinjiang autonomous region, then another 1 450 kilometres across China's largest desert, the Taklimakan, to the city of Kashgar, situated on the ancient silk route.

Our goal, the Pamir region, is to the





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Mount Muz Tagh Ata rising 7 456 metres and Little Karakul Lake.