

Led by Senator Lois Wilson, a minister and former moderator of the United Church of Canada, the seven-member group discussed religious freedom with the Chinese.

- A visit to China in 2000 by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada highlighted the 15th anniversary of Canadian efforts to help China carry out legal reforms and set up a new legal framework.
- In partnership with federal government departments and Canadian organizations, many of CIDA's development co-operation projects focus on human rights, good governance, and democratic development. They include initiatives on the training of judges, criminal law reform, women's rights, legal aid, and the development of civil society.

Immigration

- Chinese immigration to Canada started over a century ago. Since then, almost one million ethnic Chinese have emigrated to Canada. China, including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, is Canada's primary source of immigrants, with 33,248 landings in 2002. This number accounted for about 14 per cent of all immigrants to Canada in 2002.
- A high percentage of Chinese immigrants are skilled workers, such as computer specialists and engineers, with qualifications in high demand in Canada.
- Over 70 per cent of Chinese immigrants have traditionally settled in Vancouver or Toronto. Chinese is the third most widely spoken language in Canada after English and French.
- Canada is working, principally through Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to achieve greater co-operation with Chinese authorities to combat human smuggling and trafficking in human beings. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration visited China in 2000 to build co-operation in this area. Subsequent visits by the Commissioner of the RCMP took place in 2000 and 2002. During Premier Zhu's visit to Canada in 1999, a memorandum of understanding on co-operation to combat crime was signed.

Academic relations

- In 2002, China was the second largest source of foreign students in Canada. While China is taking steps to develop post-secondary education, capacity will continue to be limited for some time to come, and interest in study abroad will remain high. Canada's education links with Hong Kong