

- 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.
- In the late 1980s, Canada and China signed a memorandum of understanding renewing the China-Canada Scholars Exchange Program, under which a dozen or so university professors and students from each country travel to the other country to study every year.
- More than 4,000 Chinese students are now studying at Canadian universities, mainly in engineering and pure sciences. About 100 Canadian students are studying in China.
- Canada has long considered cultural relations with China an important facet of bilateral relations. Official consultations on cultural relations take place regularly.