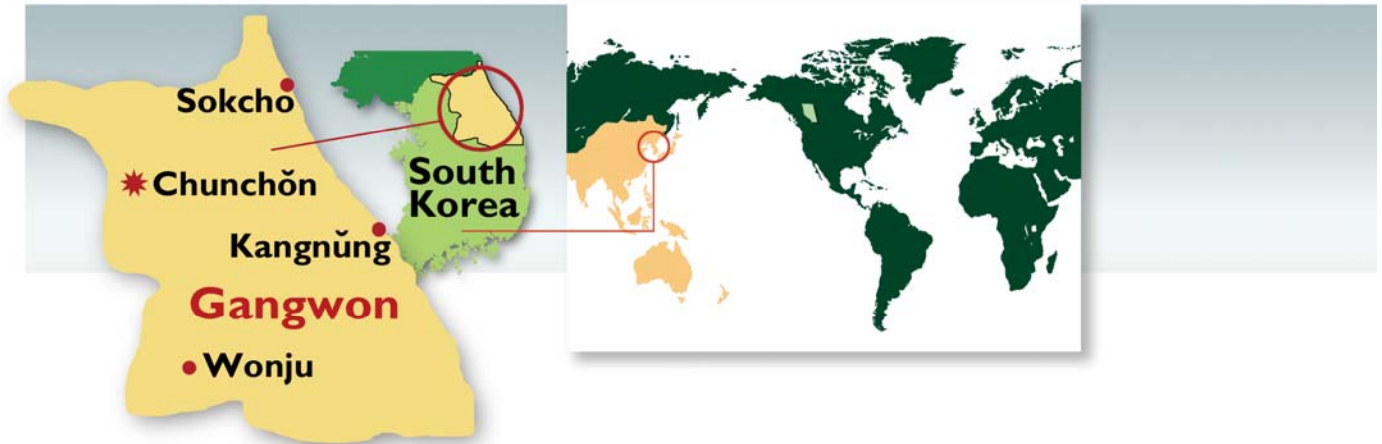


GANGWON - ALBERTA RELATIONS



PROFILE

Capital: Chuncheon

Population: 1.6 million (2000)

Language: Korean

Government: Presidential Republic

Head of State: Governor KIM Jin-Sun

Currency: \$1 CDN = 794 Korean Won
(May 2005)

Key Industry Sectors: Tourism, livestock, mining, manufacturing

DID YOU KNOW?

- Gangwon was divided during the Korean War (1950-53). One-third of the province's former territory is in North Korea.
- Gangwon is home to two of Korea's most famous mountains – Soraksan and Gunggangsang (North Korea).
- Korean provinces have gained more autonomy since 1995, although the scope of their responsibilities is still considerably less than that of Canadian provinces.
- Following the lead of the Korean government, Gangwon is streamlining its regulations to attract foreign investment capital.
- In June 2002, incumbent Governor, Mr. Kim Jin-Sun of the Grand National Party (GNP), won a landslide victory winning 72% of the votes.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- The Alberta-Gangwon twinning of 1974 was the first of Alberta's strategic sister-province relationships. 2004 marked the 30th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon twinned partnership.
- The relationship has witnessed an increase in activity within the last five years as Gangwon has gained a greater degree of autonomy from the central government.
- Most activities have involved education, culture and sport exchanges, although the focus is now shifting towards economic interests.
- Alberta has posted two officials to Gangwon since 1998 and several Gangwon officials have worked in Alberta in the past. Currently, Mr. Dae-kyoung Jeon is in Alberta as the Gangwon representative.
- In 1999, during the 25th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon twinning, Gangwon's Governor, the Honourable Kim Jin-Sun visited Alberta. A Gangwon cultural group participated in the Edmonton Heritage Festival in August 1999.
- Alberta participated in the International Travel Expo'99 Gangwon in the coastal city of Sokcho. Expo'99 was an opportunity to showcase Alberta to several million Korean and international visitors.
- In June 2004, the White Buffalo Drummers and Dancers Society – an Edmonton-based aboriginal group – traveled to Gangneung City to represent Alberta at the Gangneung International Folklore Festival.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Alberta-Gangwon cooperation began in the 1970's with a joint beef ranching demonstration.
- Trade between Alberta and Gangwon is limited and indirect, mainly involving agriculture and food products.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- The University of Alberta's Korean Teachers of English Project (K-TEP) has assisted over 400 Gangwon teachers to hone their English teaching skills since 1984. All participants come from Gangwon province.
- Gangwon National University and the University of Alberta have been formally affiliated since 1983.
- Hallym University has had medical exchanges with both the Universities of Alberta and Calgary.
- Two Alberta high schools have twinings with a junior high school in Gangwon.
- Gangwon has a pen pal project with Alberta students.
- Alberta and Gangwon award reciprocal scholarships to students to study in their respective sister province.
- In 2001-2002, Olds College hosted Koreans students to complete Agriculture and Farm Safety programs, which included practicums on farms and greenhouses across Alberta.
- A number of sport exchanges have been held since 1985 including volleyball, cycling, and most recently swimming.
- Opportunities exist to market Alberta's expertise in artificial ice surfaces and in developing the sport of curling.
- Approximately 8,000 Albertans are of Korean descent. Active Korean community associations have been established in Calgary and Edmonton.

AGREEMENTS

- Gangwon-Alberta sister province agreement was signed on September 3, 1974. This agreement was re-affirmed on June 8, 2004.
- An Economic Cooperation Agreement between Edmonton and Wonju was signed in 1998.
- Alberta has participated in numerous sports exchanges with Gangwon including: alpine skiing, whitewater canoeing, wrestling, boxing, soccer, tennis, team handball, fencing and cycling.
- Gangwon's other Sister Provinces/States include: Jilin Province, China; Totori Prefecture, Japan; Primorskii Territory, Russia; State of Colorado, USA; and Mpumalanga, South Africa.

RECENT VISITS

- October 2004: A 17-person S&T delegation, led by Mr. Gun-Sick Lee, Director General, Industry and Economy Bureau of the Gangwon Provincial Government, visited Alberta to explore linkages in research and technology.
- June 2004: Premier Klein led a delegation to Gangwon province during his mission to Korea. In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon twinning, Premier Klein met with Governor Kim Jin-sun signed the *Reaffirmation of Friendship and Affiliation* between the two provinces.
- November 2002: Gangwon's Vice Governor for Political Affairs, Mr. Park Su-bok, visited Alberta.
- November 2000: a Gangwon government official, Mr. Lee Byung-nam, was posted in Alberta for 10 months to research governance in tourism and economic development.
- June 2000: Hon. Shirley McClellan, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, led a mission Gangwon.
- October 1999: Hon. Jon Havelock, Minister of Economic Development, traveled to Korea to officially open "Alberta Days" at the International Travel Expo '99 Gangwon.
- June 1999: Gangwon Governor Kim Jin-sun led a delegation to Alberta to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the sister province relationship.
- October 1998: Hon. Clint Dunford, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, led a mission to Gangwon.
- August 1997: Hon. Dave Hancock, Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, led a mission to Gangwon.
- January 1997: Premier Klein visited Gangwon during the Team Canada trade mission.