

# KHANTY-MANSII - ALBERTA RELATIONS



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Khanty-Mansiisk

**Major Centres:** Khanty-Mansiisk City, Surgut, Nizhnevartovsk

**Population:** 1.5 million (2004)

**Language:** Russian

**Government:** Region is administered by the Governor & elected legislative council. Khanty-Mansii holds four seats in the bicameral Russian Federal Assembly: two in the Council of Federation and two in the federal State Duma.

**Head of Government:** Governor Aleksandr Filipenko (since 1996)

**Currency:** Russian Rouble,  
\$1 CDN = 22.13 roubles (2004 average)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Oil and natural gas, forestry, fishing

**Political Status:** Khanty-Mansii is an autonomous region located within Tyumen Oblast. It is one of Russia's 89 subjects of the federation.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Khanty-Mansiisk is 2000 km from Moscow.
- The Khanty-Mansii Okrug is divided into 22 municipal units, each of them governed by its own administration.
- Between 1991 and 2004, the population of Khanty-Mansii Okrug increased by 86,900 people to 1.5 million.

- Russians account for 2/3 of the population, with Ukrainians being the largest minority group.
- The topography of Khanty-Mansii is very similar to that of Northern Alberta.
- The Khanty-Mansii Okrug is covered mostly by forests (52%) and swamp-land (39%).
- Like Alberta, the Khanty-Mansii Okrug is rich in natural resources, especially oil. The majority of Alberta companies working in the Russian oil patch are located in Khanty-Mansii.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- In 1993, Nizhnevartovsk in Khanty-Mansii established a twinning relationship with the city of Calgary.
- In 1995, the Khanty-Mansii Okrug was Alberta's partner on the Oil & Gas Regulatory component of the CIDA funded Canada-Russia Collaborative Federalism Project.
- In 1997, the Khanty-Mansii Duma (Legislature) passed natural resource regulatory legislation based upon Alberta's Energy Resource Conservation Board.
- Both Alberta and Khanty-Mansii are members of the [Northern Forum](#), an organization that brings together sub-national governments from a number of northern countries in order to address common economic, political and environmental concerns.
- In July 2002, a delegation from Khanty-Mansii's Neftgaz.ru Information Agency visited Alberta to produce a video documentary highlighting Alberta's energy industry.

## **KHANTY-MANSII RESOURCE ECONOMY**

- Khanty-Mansii is one of Russia's leading timber producers. The annual potential capacity amounts to over 25 million cubic meters of timber.
- Khanty-Mansii is an important source of fuel, mainly petroleum. Fishing, trapping, logging, fur production & reindeer herding are also important economic activities.
- Khanty-Mansii is the source of almost 60% of Russia's oil production, ranking among the largest oil producing regions in the world. In 2003, Khanty-Mansii produced approximately 4.7 million barrels/day compared to Alberta's 1.6 million bbl/day.
- In 2002, Khanty-Mansii produced only 3.6% of Russia's total natural gas.
- Khanty-Mansii is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of electrical energy and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of natural gas in Russia.

## **EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Due to the high levels of oil production in Khanty-Mansii, there are numerous opportunities for Alberta energy companies in the region.
- Administrators in the region are developing a modern public health system and are seeking the aid of Canadian firms.
- Rapid development of the oil industry, construction, and power engineering has led to a huge population growth, with more than one million people moving to Khanty-Mansii over the past 30 years. This means an expanding market for products and services.
- There has been considerable progress in recent years in Khanty-Mansii regarding infrastructure improvement, and there are emerging opportunities in such fields as construction and telecommunications.

## **EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

- Numerous oil production associations based in Khanty-Mansii have sent staff to Alberta for training and to source technology and equipment.
- Alberta has provided customized training programs to government officials in Khanty-Mansii, on a cost-recovery basis, in the areas of public expenditure management, health care and secondary education administration.
- Two participants have come from Khanty-Mansii as part of the Yeltsin Democracy Fellowship Program since its beginnings in 1992.

## **ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY**

- The Khanty & Mansii people are indigenous to the area, but only account for 3% of the total population.
- The Khanty and Mansii people are a Finno-Uralic people distantly related to both Hungarians and Finns. They live primarily in rural areas and maintain a clan system as well as their traditional religion and language. Many support themselves through traditional methods of fishing, hunting, and trapping.
- The indigenous people are concerned about the continuation of their traditional mode of life in the face of increasing industrialization. They face many of the same challenges indigenous people do throughout the world.

## **AGREEMENTS**

- In February 1995, Alberta and Khanty-Mansii signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

## **RECENT VISITS**

- July 2002: A delegation with Neftegaz.ru Information Agency visited Alberta.
- February 2002: Governor Filipenko met with Premier Klein in Moscow during the Team Canada Trade Mission.
- December 2001: Delegation of Khanty-Mansii youth participated in the Northern Forum's first Youth EcoForum, held in Edmonton.
- March 2000: Khanty-Mansii parliamentarians visited Alberta to study oil & gas regulation.
- October 1996: Canadian Ambassador to Russia, Anne Leahy visited Khanty-Mansii.
- 1995: Governor Alexander Filipenko visited Alberta.

## **DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION**

- The Russian Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Georgy Mamedov.
- The Canadian Ambassador to Russia is Mr. Christopher Westdal.