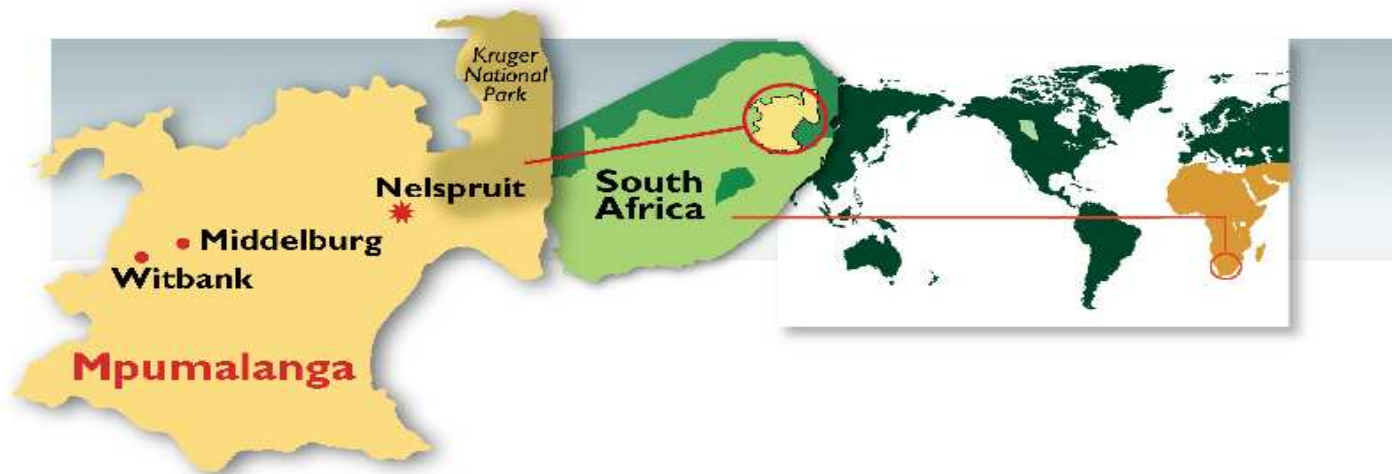


# MPUMALANGA - ALBERTA RELATIONS



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Nelspruit

**Population:** 3.36 million (2004 est.)

**Language:** SiSwati, IsiNdebele, IsiZulu, Sepedi, Xitsonga, English (business language) and Afrikaans.

**Government:** Provincial Government within the Republic of South Africa

**Head of Government:**

Premier Thabang S.P. Makwetla (ANC)  
(Elected April 2004)

**Currency:** South African Rand  
\$1 CDN = 6.27 ZAR (July 2006)

**Annual per capita income:** \$3,170.00 CDN  
(2004 est.)

**Annual Growth Rate:** 2.58% (2001 to 2005 average)

**Unemployment Rate:** 38% (2004 est.)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Manufacturing, mining, finance, tourism, agriculture, power generation, community services, and forestry.

## DID YOU KNOW?

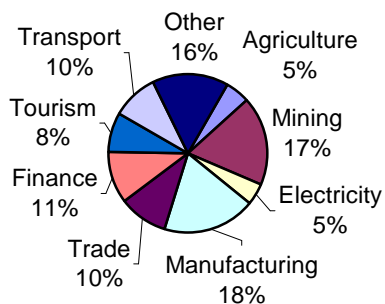
- Mpumalanga, meaning “place of the rising sun” is a province in the north-eastern part of South Africa and is home to Kruger National Park, one of the oldest and largest international game reserves in Africa.
- Mpumalanga was created after South Africa’s first democratic elections in 1994. The province was previously in the eastern Transvaal under the apartheid government.

- The Mbombela Stadium is being constructed in Nelspruit, in preparations for South Africa’s hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. This modern stadium will accommodate over 40,000 spectators.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Throughout the apartheid era, Alberta supported Canada’s policy of sanctions against South Africa in order to bring about a more democratic political system.
- From 1993 to 2004, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded the “Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project” to assist South African provinces develop democratic government structures and practices.
- In 1996, Alberta twinned with Mpumalanga under the Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project. Under this project a number of exchanges occurred on legislature operations, financial management and the role of central agencies.
- In 1998, the Alberta Ministry of Education was awarded an \$8 million five-year CIDA-funded contract to strengthen the teacher in-service capacity of provincial departments of education in Mpumalanga, Gauteng, and Free State, as well as the National Department of Education.
- In 2005, Alberta and Mpumalanga reaffirmed their mutual interest in continuing their twinning relationship with the extension of the Alberta-Mpumalanga Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) until 2010.
- Alberta remains committed to further develop and foster its relations with the provincial Government of Mpumalanga, particularly in areas of governance, intergovernmental and legislative cooperation, economic development, trade and investment, infrastructure development, health, tourism promotion, sustainable environmental development and agriculture.

## Mpumalanga Economic Output



### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- South Africa is Alberta's 34th largest trading partner with exports averaging \$33.2 million CDN per year over the past five years. In 2005, Alberta exports to South Africa were valued at \$40 million CDN. Top exports include sulfur, barley, malt, alcohol, electrical parts and nickel.
- In 2005, Alberta imports from South Africa were worth approximately \$70 million CDN and included metal products, fruit, wine, machinery and cocoa beans.
- South Africa is considered to be an emerging market and to have the most sophisticated free-market economy in Africa.
- Mpumalanga has an abundant supply of natural resources and a developed physical and economic infrastructure.
- Mpumalanga accounts for over 40% of forestry plantations in South Africa.
- Mpumalanga is a large manufacturing base for stainless steel and is home to the world's fifth-largest stainless steel producer.

### ENERGY

- The Republic of South Africa is Africa's largest energy consumer, and second largest energy producer.
- South Africa has 15.7 million barrels of proven oil reserves and is not a significant oil producer. However, South Africa's refining capacity at approximately 0.5 million barrels per day is the second largest in Africa, surpassed only by Egypt.
- South Africa is a net importer of oil; Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Nigeria are South Africa's chief suppliers.
- South Africa's natural gas reserves are 1.3 trillion cubic feet. Alberta's natural gas reserves are 40 trillion cubic feet.
- Coal is the primary fuel produced and consumed in South Africa. The country has the world's sixth largest amount of recoverable coal reserves at 53.7 billion short tons (approximately 5% of the world's total) and is the world's sixth largest coal producer.
- The Province of Mpumalanga accounts for 83% of South African coal production (Alberta accounts for 50% of Canada's coal production).
- South Africa is an established world leader in developing technology to convert coal into synthetic fuels and other petrochemicals.

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- According to the Mpumalanga Investment Initiative, opportunities exist for investment in the following sectors: agri-processing, steel, forestry products, tourism, agriculture, and mining.

### SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY

- The South African Community in Alberta numbers approximately 2,500.

### RECENT VISITS

- September 2005: Premier Klein visited South Africa to support Alberta companies exhibiting and participating in the World Petroleum Congress and to renew and expand the Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning relationship. The Premier was joined by Alberta Energy Minister Greg Melchin and Alberta MLA Shiraz Shariff.
- September 2005: Mpumalanga Premier Thabang S.P. Makwetla visited Alberta in honour of its Centennial.
- July 2004: Mr. Pares Pandya and Mr. Siphosile Silinda from the Mpumalanga Investment Initiative visited Alberta to explore business opportunities in food processing, forestry and wood processing.
- June 2004: Nineteen delegates from seven South African provinces visited Alberta to study the province's role in intergovernmental and international relations.
- February 2004: Six delegates from Mpumalanga visited Alberta studying government service delivery in multi-purpose service centres.
- December 2003: Strategic communications workshops were delivered by a two member Alberta delegation to 120 people in the South African provinces of Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Northwest Province, and KwaZulu Natal.
- August 2003: A two-day workshop on Alberta's performance management best practices was delivered in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.
- May 2003: A nine member delegation from Mpumalanga, including seven Chief Financial Officers, spent two weeks in Edmonton examining performance measurements, budgeting and public expenditure management.
- September 2002: Alberta's Environment Minister attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, and met with Mpumalanga officials.
- April 2002: Mpumalanga Premier Ndaweni Mahlangu, led a seventeen-member trade and investment mission to Alberta. At this time, Premiers Mahlangu and Klein signed an MOU extending the Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning relationship.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Ms. Nowetu Ethel Luti is South Africa's Acting High Commissioner to Canada.
- Ms. Sandelle Scrimshaw is Canada's High Commissioner to South Africa.