

TYUMEN OBLAST - ALBERTA RELATIONS



PROFILE

Capital: Tyumen

Population: 3.3 million (2004)
(including Khanty-Mansii and Yamal-Nenets)

Language: Russian

Head of Government: Governor Vladimir Yakushev
(since November 2005)

Currency: Russian Rouble,
\$1 CDN = 24.38 roubles (April 2006)

Key Industry Sectors: Oil and natural gas, timber

Political Status: Under the 1993 Constitution, Khanty-Mansii and Yamal-Nenets became fiscally and administratively independent of the Tyumen government. Khanty-Mansii and Yamal-Nenets are thus Autonomous Okrugs (Districts) within Tyumen Oblast (Province).

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Tyumen Oblast has extensive international connections, due to its role as Russia's principal exporter of oil and gas.
- Tyumen Oblast has international agreements with Finland, Austria, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Belarus, the province of Lower Saxony (Germany), and the Grampian Region (Scotland).
- Alberta has a twinning relationship with Tyumen Oblast, including the Autonomous Okrugs of Khanty-Mansii and Yamal-Nenets.
- The Alberta Government had an office in Tyumen City from 1993 to 1996.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tyumen Oblast, including Khanty-Mansii and Yamal-Nenets, is just under the size of Quebec.
- Russians account for more than two-thirds of the population, with Ukrainians constituting the largest minority group.
- Tyumen Oblast, with its wealth of oil and gas, is the largest exporter in the Russian Federation.
- The accelerated development of the oil and gas industry has stimulated the growth of other economic sectors, and has brought about profound socio-economic changes.
- Since 1995, Tyumen's Roshchino Airport has been open to international flights, and hotels of international quality have been built in the major cities. There is an international trade centre in the city of Tyumen.

RESOURCES AND ECONOMY

(Figures include Khanty-Mansii and Yamal-Nenets)

- Tyumen Province ranks first in the Russian Federation in industrial output and investment in fixed assets; it has the second highest per capita income in the country.
- Most of Russia's oil and gas resources are located in the Province of Tyumen. In 2004, about 70% of Russia's crude oil, or about 6.1 million barrels per day (bbl/d) was produced in the Province as a whole, making Tyumen the second largest crude oil producer in the world, after Saudi Arabia. By comparison, Alberta produced 1.7 million bbl/d, or about 67% of Canada's crude oil and equivalent production.
- In 2004, about 93% of Russia's natural gas, or about 21 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas was produced in Tyumen Province; in that year, Tyumen was the largest producer of natural gas in the world.
- Of more regional significance to the Tyumen portion of the Province that is not part of Khanty-Mansii and Yamal-Nenets are the timber and wood-processing industries, mechanical engineering, and the rapidly developing petrochemical and electrical energy sectors.
- Tyumen Province has the 3rd largest timber resource in the country; the total supply of timber has been estimated at 5.4 billion cubic meters.
- Tyumen also has large deposits of coal, peat and gold.
- The Province has more than 4 million hectares of farmland (farmland makes up about 3% of the Province's territory). Animal husbandry and grain farming are the leading branches of agriculture. Reindeer-breeding, fur-trading, and poultry farming are also developed in the Province.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- In 2003, GMC won the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) award for "outstanding program in international education" for its Health Education Link Project (HELP) in Tyumen Oblast, which benefits 36,000 nurses through the development of educational programs aimed at raising the professional and social profile of the nursing community.
- The University of Alberta and Tyumen State Oil and Gas University are exploring collaborative opportunities (e.g. student exchanges, research, executive training, etc.). A Tyumen delegation visited Edmonton in June 2004 to determine if any partnership would be feasible.
- Since 1995, Grant MacEwan College (GMC) has been active with the CIDA-funded Canada-Russia Initiative in Nursing (CRIN) programs in Siberia, and has established a representative office at the Tyumen State Medical Academy.

TYUMEN PEOPLES

- Tyumen Oblast is home to 125 nationalities with Russians constituting the largest ethnic group. Other nationalities include Ukrainians, Tatars, Belarusians, Bashkirs, Chuvash, Germans, Azeris, Moldavians, and Kazakhs. In the autonomous okrugs, the Khanty, Mansii, and Nenets ethnic groups are also represented.
- Tyumen Oblast was the first province in the Russian Federation to develop a plan for nationality policy at the provincial for the years 1999-2005.

AGREEMENTS

- 1997: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Alberta and Yamal-Nenets.
- 1995: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Alberta and Khanty-Mansii.
- 1992: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Alberta and the Tyumen Oblast.

RECENT VISITS

- July 2005: Yamal-Nenets sent a large delegation and exhibit to Edmonton's Klondike Days to celebrate Alberta's Centennial.
- May 2005: Russian health representatives visited Alberta as part of CRIN.
- July 2002: A delegation with Neftegaz.ru Information Agency (Khanty-Mansii) visited Alberta to film a documentary on the Alberta energy sector.
- February 2002: Khanty-Mansii Governor, Yamal-Nenets and Tyumen Deputy Governors met with Premier Klein in Moscow during the Team Canada Trade Mission.
- May 2001: Visit by Tyumen Health Delegation.
- September 2000: Alberta Ministerial visit to Tyumen.
- May 2000: Visit by Head of Tyumen Administration on Special Projects.
- 1997: Visit by Governor Yuri Neyelov for the signing of the Alberta-Yamalo-Nenets MOU on twinning.
- 1995: Governor of Khanty-Mansii, Aleksandr Filipenko visited Alberta.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

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

NOTE: International and Intergovernmental Relations has detailed relations paper for each of its sister-province relationships in Russia including those of: Tyumen, Khanty-Mansii, and Yamal-Nenets.

These documents can be found on our website at: www.iir.gov.ab.ca