

# NIGERIA - ALBERTA RELATIONS



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Abuja

**Population:** 139.8 million (est. 2005)

**Language:** English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani

**Government:** Federal Republic

**Head of State/Government:**  
President Olusegun Obasanjo (re-elected April 2003)

**Currency:** \$1CDN = 121.82 Naira (May 2006)

**GDP:** US \$97 billion (est. 2005)  
**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US \$1,220 (est. 2005)

**GDP growth rate:** 6.22% (2001-2005 average)

**Inflation:** 20.7% (est. 2005)

**Unemployment:** 2.9%

**Key Industry Sectors:** Petroleum and petroleum products, cocoa, rubber, mining, cotton, palm oil

## NIGERIA OVERVIEW

- Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and accounts for nearly half of West Africa's population and over 40% of the region's GDP.
- Nigeria's three main ethnic groups are the Hausa-Fulani, the Yoruba and the Ibo, but it has more than 250 distinct ethnic groups. Regional, ethnic and religious differences have contributed to instability.
- Nigeria is predominantly agrarian, with approximately 70% of the populace involved in subsistence level agricultural production. However, Nigerians are not yet self-sufficient in food production and must rely on imports.
- Despite the country's relative oil wealth, poverty is wide spread and Nigeria is ranked among the 20 poorest nations in the world. Over 60% of the population falls below the poverty line.
- The World Bank currently supports five projects in Nigeria in the areas of education, water management and economic capacity building.

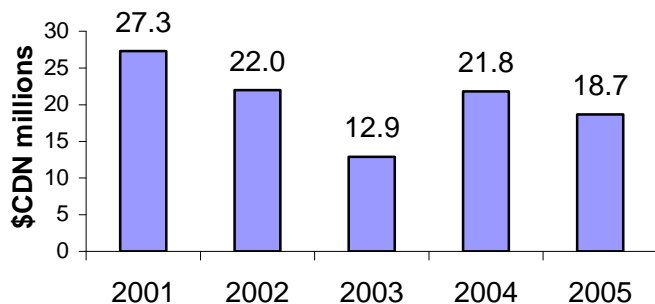
## POLITICS

- Nigeria obtained independence from Britain in 1960. A succession of military governments controlled the country for 28 of the 40 years since independence.
- In 1991, Nigeria moved its political capital from Lagos to the central city of Abuja as part of efforts to heal divisions created by the Biafra civil war (1966-70). Lagos remains the commercial centre.
- The democratically elected government of President Obasanjo assumed power in Nigeria in May 1999.
- Challenges facing the new administration include tackling corruption and improving governance in order to reverse the economic decline.

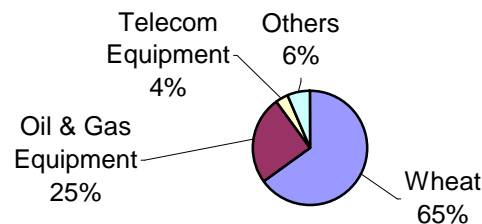
## ECONOMICS

- Nigeria has the 10<sup>th</sup> largest oil reserves in the world, with 35.9 billion barrels of proven oil reserves. Alberta's has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest oil reserves in the world with 176 billion barrels of proven oil reserves.
- Nigeria is a member of OPEC and is the world's 8<sup>th</sup> largest crude oil producer and net exporter. Nigeria's crude oil and equivalent production averages 2.6 million barrels per day (bbl/d) versus Alberta's 1.7 million. Nigeria is also the largest oil producer in Africa.

### Alberta Exports to Nigeria (2001-2005)



### Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Nigeria (2005)



- Nigeria's net oil exports are 2.2 million barrels per day.
- Nigeria is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest supplier of oil to the US, providing 1.15 million barrels per day.
- Nigeria's economy is highly dependent on the oil sector. Crude oil exports generate more than 90%-95% of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings and 80% of government revenues.
- Nigeria's dependence on exporting crude oil is expected to lessen somewhat as Nigeria develops its natural gas industry. As of 2005, Nigeria had the 7<sup>th</sup> largest natural gas reserves in the world, and the largest reserves in Africa, with an estimated 175 trillion cubic feet of proven reserves. Alberta's natural gas reserves are estimated at 40 trillion cubic feet.

### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2001 to 2005, Alberta exports to Nigeria averaged \$20.5 CDN million per year. Top exports include wheat, oil and gas equipment, telecommunication equipment, and various parts for machinery.
- From 2001 to 2005, Alberta imports from Nigeria have been approximately \$2.9 CDN million per year. Top imports include cocoa, ginger, and rubber.

### Agriculture

- From 2001 to 2005, Alberta's agri-food exports to Nigeria, almost entirely wheat, averaged \$13.5 million CDN per year.

### Energy

- In 2005, thirteen Alberta energy and/or service and supply companies were reported to be active in Nigeria including Nexen, which is actively exploring and developing areas offshore Nigeria.

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- The University of Calgary has an international linkage with the University of Port Harcourt (Rivers State). Through teaching and research, the linkage establishes a cooperative relationship that benefits each institution in the areas of law, social welfare, engineering and medicine.
- The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology signed a memorandum of understanding with Rivers State to provide upgrading for technology labs, courses and training for instructors.

### COMMUNITY

- There are over 13,000 Albertans of African decent in the province, of whom a small portion trace their roots to Nigeria.

### RECENT VISITS

- 2005: Alberta's Energy Minister, the Honourable Greg Melchin, met Nigeria's Minister of Petroleum Resources, Dr. Edmund Daukoru, and Mrs. Obiageli Ezekwesili, former Minister of Solid Mineral Development, at the World Petroleum Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2002: President Obasanjo attended the Kananaskis Summit and supported the Africa Action Plan, adopted by the G8 in Kananaskis.
- 2000: A delegation from Rivers State led by Governor Odili visited Alberta. They met with Lorne Taylor, the former Minister of Alberta Innovation and Science, as well as with business and academic representatives in Calgary.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Nigeria's High Commissioner to Canada is His Excellency Olufemi Oyewale George.
- Canada's High Commissioner to Nigeria is Mr. David Angell.