

Timeline of Canada-China Relations

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Preface

2020 marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China (PRC, hereafter China). Bilateral relations between the two countries over the past five decades have presented marked cooperation and advances in areas of mutual interest yet considerable divergence and challenges. Decades before frequent high-level political visits, a significant level of interaction between people of both countries has taken place in various fields. This chronology illustrates the shifting dimensions of Canada-China relations, and the extent to which the relations have evolved over the years, bringing about both positive and negative outcomes for both countries.

Canada and China have also cooperated through bilateral and multilateral channels on issues of global importance, raising awareness for some of today's most pressing issues such as climate change and environmental degradation, and health and energy security. The historical record of Canada-China relations renders the friction associated with two disparate governance systems, and domestic and foreign policy imperatives. These include China's assertiveness and its deep distrust of democratic systems, and Canada's growing wariness of China's expanding global influence. While Canada-China relations exhibit a myriad of challenges and uncertainty, the long and evolving relationship remains suffused with resilience, and some optimism for economic, social, political, and cultural engagement and furtherance.

This timeline is based on a broad literature search, incorporating primary and secondary sources such as relevant print and online academic books, chapters, articles, and grey literature, including media and government reports, and archival material, primarily in English and Chinese.

Canada-China Milestones Before the Establishment of Formal Diplomatic Relations

建立正式外交关系之前的中加里程碑

- 1752 The Canadian-Chinese ginseng trade reaches 500,000 francs.
- 1858 The Treaty of Tianjian (天津条约) opens China to foreign missionary work, grants foreign visitors access to China's interior, and establishes 10 new treaty ports.
- 1871-1882 Thousands of Chinese construction workers, known as “coolie labourers”, travel to Canada to work on sections of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) in British Columbia. Prime Minister Sir John A MacDonalD advocates for the use of Chinese labourers to cut costs. Chinese labourers are paid CAD\$1 per day – three times less than blacks and natives.
- 1885-1904 Under pressure from the province of British Columbia, the Canadian government passes a racist and exclusionary law called the Chinese Immigration Act of 1885 (1885年華人移民法案). The legislation allows for a “Head Tax” to be imposed on Chinese immigrants, with the aim of curtailing Chinese immigration. Initially CAD\$50 per immigrant, the tax rose to CAD\$100 in 1900 and CAD\$500 in 1904.
- 1889 Mail delivery between Canada and China begins via the RMS Empress of China (Canadian Pacific) “All Red” route. Deliveries were made every three weeks, and was extended to four times per week during the winter months.
- 1891 First major contact between Canada and China comes in the form of missionary work with the Catholic Church and various Protestant churches sending Christian missionaries. Canada's first groups of missionaries to Chengdu consists of Dr and Mrs VC Hart, Dr and Mrs OL Kilborn, Reverend and Mrs GE Hartwell, Dr David Stevenson, and Miss Amelia Brown. Chinese locals are praised for their friendliness, warmth, and hospitality. Missionary work includes the building of hospitals and schools. Some Chinese viewed the missionary work with suspicion, seeing the presence of missionaries and their religion as subversion of Chinese culture.
- 1893 Sun Life Assurance opens its first office in Shanghai. Canadian insurance companies control 90% of all life insurance business in China by the 1930s.

- 1895 Five-year period of unrest and violence unfolds in Sichuan, anti-foreigner rioting in Chengdu. Chinese burn and loot the Canadian Missionary compound.
- 1899 Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901, 义和团运动) takes place with anti-foreigner demonstrations in Chengdu ensuing. Chinese anti-missionary sentiment reaches a violent pitch with hundreds of Christian missionaries and their Chinese converts killed.
- 1906 Canada's Department of Trade and Commerce (DTC) (created in 1892) opens an office in Shanghai.
- 1909 Deputy Minister of Labour Mackenzie King arrives in Shanghai to attend the International Opium Conference.
- 1909 On March 9, the Canadian School for Missionaries' Children opens in Chengdu, West China. Miss Lela Kerr is Principal.
- 1919 The "Forward Movement" is launched by Canada's five main Protestant Churches.
- 1923 Canada ends its "head tax" policy and adopts a new act to curb all Asian immigration.
- 1926 Canada-China bilateral trade reaches a new height, amounting to approximately CAD\$27.3 million. This peak is followed by a swift and significant decline.
- 1938 In January, Canadian thoracic surgeon Dr Norman Bethune treats injured communists during their fight against the Chinese Nationalists and Imperial Japanese Army. Bethune never leaves China. On November 12, 1939, he dies of blood poisoning after cutting himself during surgery. Mao Zedong writes tribute, "In Memory of Norman Bethune" (纪念白求恩), which later becomes mandatory reading during the 10-year-long (1966-1976) Cultural Revolution (文化大革命). Bethune is seen as a national hero and martyr in China.
- 1944 Canada establishes diplomatic relations with the Chinese Nationalist Government.
- 1947 Canada terminates its ban on Chinese immigration.
- 1949 Canada refuses to recognize the establishment of the new communist government in Beijing and instead, continues to recognize the exiled Chinese government in Taiwan (what China refers to as "China's Taiwan province," 中国台湾). The decision leads to a souring of relations through the 1940s and much of the 1950s, with two decades of Canada rejecting communist China's entry into the United Nations (UN). After the Canadian federal election in 1949, Ottawa maintains its embassy in Nanjing. Mao announces that China will establish diplomatic relations with any government willing to cut ties with Chiang Kai-Shek and his Kuomintang (KMT, 中国国民党) (Chinese Nationalist Party), who flee to Taiwan. The Canadian School closes.

- 1950 China and Canada engage each other in active combat during the Korean War (朝鲜战争) (1950-1953) – the lowest point in the history of Canada and China’s bilateral relationship.
- 1951 The United Church of Canada (加拿大联合教会) ends the Canadian Mission to China with all others summarily expelled by the communists for following year.
- 1959 Canadian Minister of Agriculture Alvin Hamilton visits China. The visit sets the stage for agreements for the sale of Canadian wheat to China in 1961. The sale would be made nearly nine years before the establishment of diplomatic relations. Hamilton would later announce the largest grain sale in Canadian history: 233.4 million bushels of wheat and barley at a value of CAD\$362 million over the next 2.5 years. Further commercial visits to China lead to strong recommendations for Ottawa to officially recognize China’s communist government. China instantly becomes Canada’s 9th largest trading partner.
- 1960 Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who later becomes Prime Minister of Canada (1980-1984) travels to China along with Canadian author, journalist, and publisher Jacques Hébert for approximately a month during the “Great Leap Forward” (大跃进). Trudeau and Hébert subsequently publish their experiences in a book entitled, Two Innocents in China.
- 1965 From June to July, a Chinese delegation visits Canada to inspect grain-producing and shipping facilities.
- 1968 On November 15, Minister of Trade and Commerce Jean-Luc Pépin announces the sale of 58.5 million bushels of wheat to China. The sale is worth approximately CAD\$115 million under the 1965 long-term agreement.
- 1969 On February 10, Canadian foreign policy undergoes a significant change with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mitchell Sharp announcing in the House of Commons that, “our embassy in Stockholm has been instructed to get in touch with the Embassy of the people’s Republic of China in order to convey the Canadian proposal that talks concerning relations between the two countries be held at a mutually convenient time and place in the near future.”
- In November, motion to admit China to the UN is defeated. Canada abstains.

Canada-China Milestones Since the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations 建交以来的中加里程碑

1970

On October 13, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau officially recognizes China with the Joint Communiqué of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于中、加两国建立外交关系的联合公报) (Trudeau's policy drive begins in 1968) with the renouncing of Taiwan as a consequence. The decision vexes Washington. Canada is one of the few countries in the Western world to formally recognize the China.

1971

On February 1, Chinese chargé d'affaires arrives in Ottawa and Canadian chargé d'affaires arrives in Beijing for the opening of embassies in the two countries.

In June, RE Collins is named Canada's first Ambassador to China.

From June 25 to July 4, Minister of Trade and Commerce Jean-Luc Pépin leads an economic mission to China. The delegation is comprised of 25 people, including government officials and professionals. Pépin and Premier Zhou Enlai meet during the visit.

On July 23, Huang Hua is appointed China's first Ambassador to Canada.

On October 25, China is admitted to the UN by a vote of 76-35. This is followed by Taiwan's withdrawal.

1972

From August 15 to 24, Minister of Trade Mitchell Sharp meets with Premier Zhou Enlai. China sends a trade delegation to Ottawa and participates in the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in Toronto.

1972

From August 21 to September 2, Beijing holds a trade exhibition. Canada takes part with more than 500 Canadian entrepreneurs and approximately 225 Canadian firms attending. The exhibition is the first to be held under the reciprocal agreement between Canada and China. Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp represents the Canadian government. The exhibit is visited by some 250,000 people including Premier Zhou Enlai.

1973

Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau makes his first official visit to China (October 10-16) – meets with Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai (first Premier of China), and Deng Xiao Ping (Chair of the Central Advisory Commission, 中国共产党中央顾问委员会). The

Prime Minister's six-day visit aims at strengthening what many Canadians already regard as "special." The two countries establish regular trade meetings and exchange military attachés. The Prime Minister and Premier agree on the establishment of the Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program (CCSEP, 中加学者交换项目) – an official exchange program intended to help Chinese scholars and professionals from various fields expand their knowledge about Canada (the program is renewed in 2012).

On June 11, Canada and China sign:

- Agreement on Civil Air Services between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府民用航空运输协定).

On October 13, Canada and China sign:

- Trade Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府贸易协定).

1974

In January, China sends a 12-member trade delegation to Canada.

On November 17, the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver is opened with Chen Liang named Consul.

1976

Pierre Elliot Trudeau blocks Taiwan's participation in the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montréal unless Taiwan relinquishes the name "Republic of China." On July 1, the International Olympic Committee censures Canada for refusing Taiwanese athletes to participate in the games with their own flag and anthem. Taiwan refuses the Canadian government's ultimatum and withdraws from the games.

1978

From January 29 to February 4, Secretary of State for External Affairs Donald Jamieson visits China to discuss various issues with Chinese authorities including family reunification and the promotion of cultural and scientific exchange.

In June, Vice Chair of the NPC Standing Committee (中华人民共和国全国人民代表大会常务委员会) Ji Pengfei leads a National People's Congress (NPC, 全国人民代表大会) delegation to Canada.

1979

From January 7 to 13, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jack Horner leads a mission to China. He announces plans for a Chinese delegation to visit Canada in the coming months to discuss and establish a long-term economic agreement between the two countries. The goal is to establish a framework for deeper cooperation in key sectors such as hydro-electric power, telecommunications, grain handling, agriculture, mining, and gas and oil.

On May 19, China is given a CAD\$2 billion line of credit over a period of three years by the Export Development Corporation to assist Canadian companies in securing exports contracts.

From September 8 to 17, Speaker of the Senate Louise-Marguerite-Renaude Lapointe and Speaker of the House of Commons James Jerome lead the first Parliamentary delegation to China.

On October 19, Canada and China sign:

- Protocol on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于经济合作议定书).

1980

In August, Vice Premier of the State Council Bo Yibo and other notable political figures visit Canada for meetings with Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Grey and Minister of State of State (International Trade) Ed Lumley. During the same month, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian visits Canada and signs:

- Agreement on Developing Cooperation (建立合作方面的协议).

In September, Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whelan visits China where he signs an MOU with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of State Farm and Land Reclamation in an effort to promote the exchange of scientific knowledge and materials. Minister of State of State (International Trade) Ed Lumley visits China to co-open the seventh meeting of the Canada-China Joint Trade Committee (中加贸易联委会) in Beijing. Secretary of State for External Affairs Marc MacGuigan meets with Foreign Minister Huang Hua at the UN where he accepts an invitation to visit China the following summer to sign an MOU for a new bilateral assistance program in addition to an agreement for Canada to open consulates in Shanghai and Guangzhou and for China to open a consulate in Vancouver. The agreement also includes a provision for Canada to send two immigration officers to China in an effort to assist with the processing of approximately 5,600 family reunification requests between 1973 and 1979.

1981

Following extensive drought and flooding in Hubei and Hunan, Canada donates CAD\$4 million in humanitarian relief. The donation marks the beginning of the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) official aid program for China. Secretary of State (External Affairs) Marc MacGuigan announces the program MOU in August during his visit to China. MacGuigan signs an agreement for the settlement of private claims from the expropriation of Canadian property that occurred in 1949 and announces the first development assistance program for China, which aims to provide training for Chinese in fields of retail trade, mining, agriculture, and manufacturing.

1983

On October 5, 1993, Canada and China sign:

- General Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于发展合作的总协定).

From November 27 to 29 Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau visits China where he holds talks with Chinese officials about a disarmament conference involving the five nuclear powers.

1984

In January, Premier of the State Council of China Zhao Ziyang visits Canada and addresses Parliament, marking the first time a Chinese "communist" premier visits Canada since the formal diplomatic relations between the two countries were established. During Brian Mulroney's tenure as Prime Minister (1984-1993), diplomatic and commercial activity between Canada and China ascends.

On January 18, 1984, Canada and China sign:

- Agreement on Investment Insurance between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于发展合作的总协定).

In April, Speaker of the Senate Maurice Riel and Speaker of the House of Commons Lloyd Francis lead a delegation to China.

In June, Canadian Parliament passes an act to establish the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada, Fondation Asie Pacifique du Canada, 加拿大亚太基金会).

1985

In July, President Li Xiannian visits Canada, marking the first time a Chinese president visits Canada since the formal diplomatic relations between the two countries were established.

1986

In May, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney visits China and meets with Deng Xiaoping and holds special talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang, among others. During the visit the Government of Canada offers China CAD\$140 million in aid and interest-free credit. That same month, Vice Premier of the State Council Yao Yilin visits Canada.

In May, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney visits China and holds special talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang. That same month, Vice Premier of the State Council Yao Yilin visits Canada.

On May 12, Canada and China sign:

- Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada on Avoiding Double Taxation and Preventing Tax Evasion (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于避免双重征税和防止偷税漏税的协定).

1987

In March, Governor General Jeanne Sauv  visits China and meets with President Li Xiannian and Premier Zhao Ziyang.

In April, Speaker of the Senate Guy Charbonneau and Speaker of the House of Commons John Allen Fraser visit China where they meet with President Li Xiannian and Chair Peng Zhen of the NPC Standing Committee.

In May, Vice Chair of the Central Military Commission (CMC, 中国共产党中央军事委员会) Yang Shangkun leads a Chinese delegation to Canada and holds talks with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark.

1988

In May, Vice Premier of the State Council of China Tian Jiyun visits Canada and holds talks with Governor General Jeanne Sauv  as well as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and Deputy Prime Minister Donald Mazankowski and other significant Canadian political figures.

On November 4, Canada and China sign:

- MOU on Cultural Exchange between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府文化交流谅解备忘录).

1989

The Tiananmen Square protests (六四事件) (April 15-June 5) (what is referred to as the June Fourth Incident in China) brings an abrupt halt to much of the previous activity between Canada and China, including all contacts of an official capacity. The student-led protest grew out of the 1989 Democracy Movement that called for freedom of speech, freedom of press, and greater human rights in China. Following the killing of hundreds of unarmed demonstrators by Chinese soldiers, Canada joins in near-universal condemnation of the government.

On June 4, Canada Recalls Ambassador Earl Drake in objection to China's violent use of military force against protestors in Tiananmen Square from June 3 to 4.

On June 5, the House of Commons unanimously condemns China's actions during the Tiananmen Square protests.

In May, the Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Wan Li leads and NPC delegation to Canada, marking the first time a Chair of the Standing Committee visited Canada.

On June 30, Secretary of State (External Affairs) Joe Clark delivers a statement following the Tiananmen Square "massacre." He calls for existing relations to be maintained but further relations to be people-to-people based. Further, the Canada should avoid engaging in programs that might benefit China's currently policies. Canada approves Export Development Corporation loans.

1992

On January 7, China expels Canadian Members of Parliament (MPs) Beryl Gaffney, Svend Robinson, and Geoff Scott after meeting with relatives of protestors.

In April, Minister of International Trade Michael Wilson leads a five-day trade mission. The mission marks the return of normal relations between the two countries following Tiananmen Square. Canada promises to support China's membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT, 关税暨贸易总协定).

1993

From March 25 to 29, Minister of Constitutional Affairs Joe Clark visits China to discuss economic and human rights issues.

In May, the Canadian government officially invites Vice Premier Zhu Rongji to Canada.

1994

In April, Governor General of Canada, Ray Hnatyshyn, visits China and Vice Premier Zou Jiahua visits Canada during the same month.

On July 29, Canada and China sign:

- Treaty Between Canada and the People's Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (中华人民共和国和加拿大关于刑事司法协助的条约).

On July 24, Canada and China sign:

- Treaty between the People's Republic of China and Canada on Criminal Judicial Assistance (中华人民共和国和加拿大关于刑事司法协助的条约).

On November 7, Canada and China sign:

- Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People's Republic of China for Co-operation in the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy (中华人民共和国和加拿大关于和平使用核能条约).

Both countries sign:

- MOU on the cooperation between the two countries on the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant (秦山核电站) in Haiyan, Zhejiang (两国之间关于位于浙江海盐县的秦山核电站进行合作的谅解备忘录).

From November 4 to 18, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien leads the first "Team Canada" trade missions to China, accompanied by approximately 500 political figures and business leaders.

Trade Office opens in Guangdong (formerly Canton).

1994-2001

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien leads his “Team Canada” trade missions to China in 1994, 1996, 1998, and again in 2001 – the latter represents the largest trade mission in Canadian history. The team consists of nearly more than 500 business leaders, eight provincial premiers, the three heads of government of Canada’s territories, along with Minister for International Trade Pierre Pettigrew and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Rey Pagtakhan. The visits carried significant symbolic value in addition to commercial/economic value. The Prime Minister’s “Team Canada” mission to China in 1994 alone yields CAD\$9 billion.

In April, 1996, Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Qiao Shi visits Canada with subsequent visits being made in September by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichan and Speaker of the Senate of Canada Gildas Molgat visiting China in October.

On September 19, 1996, Canada and China sign:

- Exchange of Letters between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Canada Regarding the Reservation of the Canadian Consulate General in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于加拿大在香港特别行政区保留总领馆的的换文).

The agreement allows the Canadian Consulate General to continuing operating in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

In November, 1996, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien visits China and meets with Premier Li Peng.

On November 26, 1996, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) signs a contract with the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC, 中国核工业集团公司) for the sale of two CANDU-6 reactors.

1995

In October, Premier Li Peng visits Canada for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and China.

1997

In April, Minister of External Affairs Lloyd Axworthy visits China and later, in July, attends a ceremony for the transfer of the former British colony of Hong Kong over to China. In November, Governor General Roméo-Adrien LeBlanc invites President Jiang Zemin to visit Canada and holds meetings with various Canadian political figures to discuss the further development of relations between the two countries.

On April 4, Canada and China sign:

- Agreement on Maritime Transport between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府海运协定).

On April 14, Canada officially ends its co-sponsoring of human rights resolutions on China at the UN and announces the beginning of its bilateral approach to human rights initiatives.

From November 26 to 28, President Jiang Zemin visits other parts of Canada after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Vancouver.

On November 28, Canada and China sign:

- Consular Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府领事协定).

1998

In January, State Councillors Chen Junsheng and Peng Peiyun visit Canada. 1998 sees numerous high-level political visits, with Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan visiting Canada in September, Member of the CPC Political Bureau and President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS, 中国社会科学院) Li Tieying visiting Canada in October, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien visiting China in November, marking his third visit to China.

On November 19, Canada and China sign:

- The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada Facing the 21st Century Environmental Cooperation Framework Statement (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府面向二十一世纪环境合作框架声明).

That same month, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, during a visit to China, publicly states that Canadians are deeply concerned about China's restrictions on the freedom of expression in China.

1999

In April, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien invites Premier Zhu Rongji to Canada, where he visits multiple Canadian cities, including Ottawa. He meets with several high-level political figures and discusses the future of Canada-China relations and cooperation as well as the environment.

On April 16, Canada and China sign:

- Action Plan of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada on Environmental Cooperation (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于环境合作的行动计划)
- MOU on Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada on Combating Crimes (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于打击犯罪的合作谅解备忘录) on the same day.

In October, Member of the Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (中国共产党中央政治局) and Secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee of the Communist Party of China (中国共产党北京市委员会) visits Canada.

On December 19, Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific Raymond Chen attends the handing-over ceremony of Macao on behalf of the Government of Canada.

2000

Speaker of the Senate Gildas Molgat invites Chair of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC, 中国人民政治协商会议) Li Ruihuan to Canada, in May, where he meets with several high-level political figures. Later the same year, in October, the US and China enter into an era of "normalized trade relations" with China and US President Bill Clinton signing the US-China Relations Act of 2000. The act allows Beijing to engage in "Permanent Normal Trade Relations" (PNTR, 永久性正常贸易关系). The act paves the way for China to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) and become Canada's second-largest trade partner and Canada's second-largest export market.

In June, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada Beverley McLachlin visits China.

2001

From February 7 to 17, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien leads the largest trade mission in Canadian history to China, where he meets with President Jiang Zemin and Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Li Peng. The Prime Minister is accompanied by some 600 business participants in addition to eight premiers and three territorial leaders. The mission leads to the signing of multiple MOUs and agreements (listed below). He also holds talks with Premier Zhu Rongji.

On February 11, Canada and China sign:

- MOU between the National Development Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Natural Resources of Canada on Cooperation in the Energy Field (中华人民共和国国家发展计划委员会和加拿大自然资源部关于能源领域合作的谅解备忘录) (renewed in 2006 and 2012)
- Letter of Intent for China-Canada Development Cooperation Projects in the Fields of Environment and Climate Change, Judicial Reform, Western Development and WTO Accession between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府在环境与气候变化、司法改革、西部大开发和加入世界贸易组织领域的中加发展合作项目意向书)
- MOU on the Sino-Canada Scholar Exchange Program (中加学者交换项目谅解备忘录)

In June, Chinese (Uyghur) State Councillor Ismail Amat leads an economic and trade delegation to Canada, where he meets with several high-level political figures. These meetings are followed by Minister of National Revenue Martin Cauchon visit to China in July and Minister of Finance Paul Martin's visit to China in September.

In October, Speaker of the Senate of Canada Philip Hays lead a delegation to China while Prime Minister Jean Chrétien travels to Shanghai to attend (on October 17) the 2001 (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting (亚太经合组织会议) – “Meeting New Challenges in the New Century: Achieving Common Prosperity through Participation and Cooperation”.

2002

In March, Vice Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Tian Jiyun leads a delegation to Canada. This is followed by a Canadian delegation to China led by Speaker of the House of Commons, Peter Milliken, who meets with Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Li Peng. Over the course of several months, further delegations would be active with Member of the CPC Political Bureau, and Member of the CPC Secretariat and Minister of the CPC Publicity Department (中共中央宣传部) Ding Guangan and Vice Chair of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Zhou Tienong visit Canada.

In July, Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan meets with Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, William C Graham, during an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN, 东南亚国家联盟) Regional Forum in Brunei.

In September, Vice Chair of the Central Military Commission (中央军事委员会), State Councillor, and Minister of Defence General Chi Haotian visits Canada. Vice Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Peng Peiyun visits Canada to attend the 2002 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. More Canadian politicians visit China during the year, including among others, Minister of Industry Alan Rock, Minister of Immigration Denis Coderre, Minister of State for Asian and Pacific Affairs David Kilgou, Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions) John McCallum, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Giulizno Zaccardelli.

2003

From January 8 to 10, Minister for International Cooperation Susan Whelan meets Vice Minister of China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation (MOFTEC, 对外贸易经济合作部) Lu Fuyuan in China, where they sign multiple agreements concerning the adaptation of small farmers to the global market, the reform of China's prosecution system, and roads and education in western China.

President and Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court (中华人民共和国最高人民法院) Xiao Yang visits Canada. His visit is followed by Director of the State Bureau of Religious Affairs (SARA, 国家宗教事务局) Ye Xiaowen's in February.

In May, President, Hu Jintao, meets with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in Saint Petersburg.

In June 23, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham visits China, where he meets Premier Wen Jiabao and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

In July, Vice Minister of MOFTEC Lu Fuyuan visits Canada.

From September 5 to 11, Minister of National Defence John McCallum Minister of National Defence General Cao Gangchuan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Li Zhaoxing. They discuss Canada-China defence relations, Asia-Pacific regional security, and Canada's contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF, 驻阿富汗国际维和部队) in Afghanistan and to international efforts to combat terrorism.

In October, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien makes his sixth and final trip to China and sign multiple agreement (listed below).

On October 22, Canada and China sign the

- Joint Statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada on Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation on Climate Change (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于加强气候变化对话与合作的联合声明).
- China-Canada Scholars Exchange Project Agreement (中加学者交换项目协议).
- Letter of Intent of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada on China-Canada Development Cooperation Projects in the Fields of Maternal and Child Health Care, Legislative Cooperation, Sustainable Agricultural Development, and Ecosystem Restoration (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于中加在妇幼保健、立法合作、可持续农业发展以及恢复生态系统领域的发展合作项目意向书).
- MOU between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Project in Canada (中华人民共和国国家质量监督检验检疫总局与加拿大食品检验署关于加拿大传染性海绵状脑病项目的合作备忘录).

On December 11, Canada and China sign:

- MOU between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and Canada on Cooperation in Entry-Exit Plant Quarantine (中华人民共和国国家质量监督检验检疫总局与加拿大)

总局与加拿大关于出入境植物检疫合作的谅解备忘录).

- MOU on Highway and Waterway Transportation Technology Cooperation between the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Transport of Canada (中华人民共和国交通部与加拿大运输部公路、水路交通技术合作谅解备忘录).
- Letter of Intent of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada on China-Canada Development Cooperation Projects in the Field of Judicial and Livestock Health Promotion Services (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于在司法和牲畜健康推广服务领域中加发展合作项目意向书).
- MOU on Dairy Science and Technology Cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada (中华人民共和国科技部与加拿大农业和农业食品部奶业科学技术合作谅解备忘录).

In December, Premier Wen Jiabao visits Canada.

2004

Prime Minister Paul Martin establishes the Strategic Working Group with China.

On April 23, Prime Minister Paul Martin meets the Dalai Lama at the private residence of Ottawa's Roman Catholic Archbishop Marcel Damphousse.

2005

From January 18 to 25, Prime Minister Paul Martin leads a major trade mission involving 280 Canadian companies and firms to China where he signs over 100 agreements (key agreements listed below).

On January 20, Canada and China sign:

- Cultural Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府文化协定).
- MOU between the National Development and Reform Commission of China and the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources on the Establishment of a Mineral Resources Cooperation Dialogue Mechanism (中国国家发展改革委与加拿大自然资源部关于建立矿产资源合作对话机制的谅解备忘录).
- MOU on Nuclear Energy Co-operation between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada, the Atomic Energy Canada Limited, the National Development and Reform Commission of China and the China National Nuclear Corporation. (中国国家发展改革委员会, 中国核工业集团有限公司与加拿大自然资源部、加拿大原子能有限公司关于核能领域

合作的谅解备忘录).

- MOU between the Ministry of Education of China and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada on Scientific Research Cooperation and Talent Training in the Field of Agriculture and Agri-food (中国教育部与加拿大农业和农业食品部关于在农业和农业食品领域开展科研合作与人才培养的谅解备忘录).
- MOU between the Ministry of Land and Resources of China and the Ministry of Natural Resources of Canada on Cooperation in the Field of Earth Science and Mineral Resources (中国国土资源部和加拿大自然资源部关于在地球科学和矿业资源领域合作的谅解备忘录).

On June 8, Senate Speaker Dan Hays leads a Canadian delegation to China where he meets with Chair Jia Qinglin of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in the Great Hall of the People.

On September 9, Canada and China sign:

- Air Services Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府航空运输协定).
- MOU on Railway Cooperation between the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Canadian Ministry of Transport (中华人民共和国政府铁道部与加拿大运输部关于铁路合作事宜的谅解备忘录).
- MOU on Food Safety and Animal and Plant Health Cooperation between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (中华人民共和国国家质量监督检验检疫总局与加拿大食品检验署关于食品安全和动植物卫生合作谅解备忘录).
- Work Plan of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on the Phytosanitary Requirements for Pear Exports (中华人民共和国国家质量监督检验检疫总局与加拿大食品检验署关于梨出口植物检疫要求工作计划).
- China Nuclear Industry Corporation and Canadian Atomic Energy Co., Ltd. Nuclear Energy Cooperation Agreement (中国核工业集团公司与加拿大原子能有限公司核能合作协议).
- Agreement on Cooperation between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the

University of Ottawa, Canada (中国科学院与加拿大渥太华大学合作协议书).

On September 10, President Hu Jintao visits Canada.

On November 5, the Canada Gazette publishes notice of intent to conduct an Environmental Assessment of the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

2006

The election of Prime Minister Stephen Harper brings a “hard-lined” approach towards China, with the prioritization of human rights over economic partnership, which cools Canada-China relations (加中关系). China views this as “foreign interference” (外国干涉) in China’s internal affairs.

In June, the Canadian government presents the Dalai Lama with honorary Canadian citizenship. That same month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper offers an official apology for the Chinese “head tax” imposed on Chinese-Canadian immigrants between 1885 and 1923.

In August, Muslim Canadian Huseyin Celil is charged with terrorism in China and is sentenced to 15 years in prison.

On November 15, Prime Minister Stephen Harper during an interview with CBC that he will not “sell out” Canadian values for the sake of promoting trade with China.

In December, Canada and China sign the Cooperation Agreement on Talent Training between the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (中华人民共和国教育部与加拿大卫生研究院关于人才培养的合作协议).

2007

In January, Canada and China sign:

- MOU on Talent Training between the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China and the National Research Council of Canada (中华人民共和国教育部与加拿大国家研究理事会关于人才培养的谅解备忘录)
- Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府与加拿大政府科学技术合作协定)

Canada and China sign:

- MOU between the Department of Transport of Canada and the Ministry of Communications of the People's Republic of China on Technical Cooperation in Highway and Waterway Transportation (中国交通部与加拿大交通部关于公路和水路运输技术合作的谅解备忘录).

In May, Foreign Minister Peter MacKay and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi meet in China. In October, Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with the Dalai Lama. The meeting infuriates the Chinese government. Subsequently, a series of meetings between Canadian and Chinese political figures in Beijing is cancelled.

In November, Canada and China sign:

- MOU between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Health of the Canadian Government (中华人民共和国国家质量监督检验检疫总局与加拿大政府卫生部谅解备忘录).

2008

Canada and China sign:

- MOU between the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, and the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Infrastructure Development (中国商务部与加拿大外交和国际贸易部关于基础设施建设合作的谅解备忘录).

In April, Prime Minister Stephen Harper states that he will not be attending the Beijing Olympics in 2008 (2008年夏季奥林匹克运动会).

In May, Canada threatens to take China to the WTO for its refusal to negotiate over a tourism deal with Canada. China's refusal is interpreted as a discriminatory act as China has similar deals with 138 other countries in the world.

From May 21 to 23, Minister of International Trade David Emerson visits China where he hosts the Canada-China Trade and Logistics Development Forum. Minister Emerson also meets with Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce Ma Xiuhong. They sign MOU on Cooperation in Infrastructure Development.

In September, the Canadian government deports Xin Zhi Deng to his native China where he will face fraud charges. The case is lauded as a historic step in Canada-China relations after China has referred to Canada as a haven for Chinese criminals seeking to avoid punishment.

2009

In May, China implements a ban on all pork from the Canadian province of Alberta following the discovery of H1N1 (“Swine Flu”) in the province’s pig population. Canada subsequently threatens to take China to the WTO over the bans.

In May, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon visits China where several agreements are signed, including:

- MOU between the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada and the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China on Scientific and Technical Cooperation and Personnel Training (加拿大农业食品部与中华人民共和国教育部关于科技合作及人员培训的谅解备忘录)
- MOU between the Department of the Environment, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of Natural Resources of Canada and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China on Climate Change Cooperation (加拿大环境部, 海外事务和国际贸易部, 自然资源部与中华人民共和国发展与改革委员会关于气候变化合作的谅解备忘录)
- MOU between the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada and the National Department and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China on Collaboration in Civil Aviation and Cooperation in Trade Logistics (加拿大海外事务和国际贸易部与中华人民共和国发展改革委员会关于民航与贸易物流合作的谅解备忘录)
- MOU between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada and the State Forestry Administration of the People’s Republic of China on Collaboration in the Field of Forestry (signed 1998 and renewed in 2009) (加拿大自然资源部与中华人民共和国国家林业局关于林业领域合作的谅解备忘录)
- MOU on Cultural Cooperation (文化合作谅解备忘录)
- Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Maritime Transport (加拿大政府与中华人民共和国政府关于海运交运合约的补充修订)
- MOU between Transport Canada and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China on Trade Logistics Cooperation (加拿大交通部与中华人民共和国发展改革委员会关于贸易物流合作的谅解备忘)

From June 18 to 29, Ottawa hosts the first China-Canada Health Policy Dialogue. Minister of Health of the People’s Republic of China Chen Zhu and Minister of Health Leona

Aglukkaq sign a Plan of Action for 2009-2011 for continued cooperation between the two countries on issues related to health.

From June 22 to 23, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi meets Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa.

From July 12 to 21, Transport Minister John Baird visits China.

From August 9 to 14, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty visits China.

On August 31, Chair and Party Secretary of the NPC Standing Committee Wu Bangguo meets with Canadian International Trade Minister Stockwell Day and BC Premier Gordon Campbell.

In December, Canada imposes a significant tariff on Chinese steel. That same month, Canada and China sign:

- MOU on Climate Change Cooperation between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, Environment Canada, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, and Ministry of Natural Resources of Canada (中华人民共和国国家发展和改革委员会与加拿大环境部、加拿大外交和国际贸易部和加拿大自然资源部关于气候变化合作的谅解备忘录)
- MOU between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources on the Establishment of a Mineral Resources Cooperation Dialogue Mechanism (中华人民共和国国家发展和改革委员会与加拿大自然资源部关于建立矿产资源合作对话机制的谅解备忘录) (renewed in 2012)
- 2010-2012 Cooperation Plan of the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府文化协定2010-2012年度合作计划)
- MOU between the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-Food of Canada on Science and Technology Cooperation and Talent Training (中华人民共和国教育部和加拿大农业与农业食品部关于科学技术合作与人才培养的谅解备忘录)

From December 2 to 6, Prime Minister Stephen Harper visits China (Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong). A joint statement identifies four priority areas: (1) governance (human rights, rule of law), (2) trade and investment, (3) energy and environment, and (4) health (public health and pandemics). Education has since been identified as the fifth

2010

pillar of the relationship.

In June, President Hu Jintao visits Canada for the 2010 G20 Toronto summit (2010年二十国集团多伦多峰会) (June 26 to 27).

In June, Canada and China sign several agreements, including:

- Agreement between the Canadian Securities Regulators, the China Banking Regulatory Commission, the China Insurance Regulatory Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission under the People's Republic of China's Qualified Institutional Investor Program (加拿大证券监管机构与中国银监会, 保监会, 以及证监会关于中国合格境外投资者项目的协定)
- Canada-China Approved Destination Status designation (中加旅游目的地国地位认定)
- MOU between the Department of the Environment of Canada and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China on Environmental Cooperation (加拿大环境与中华人民共和国环境保护关于环境合作的谅解备忘录)
- MOU between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China to Promote Wood-Frame Construction as a Means of Improving Energy Efficiency in China's Construction Sector (加拿大自然资源部及卑诗省政府与中国住房和城乡建设部关于在中国建筑业推进木质结构建筑以提高能源利用效率的谅解备忘录)
- MOU between the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors (加拿大农业食品部与中华人民共和国农业部在农业及其相关领域进行合作的谅解备忘录)
- MOU between the National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada on Facilitating Chinese Tourist Teams Traveling to Canada (中华人民共和国国家旅游局和加拿大外交国际贸易部关于便利中国旅游团队赴加拿大旅游的谅解备忘录)
- The Cooperation Arrangement between the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (中华人民共和国国家质量监督检验检疫总局与加拿大食品检验署的合作安排)

- MOU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on Combating Crime (中华人民共和国公安部和加拿大皇家骑警关于打击犯罪的合作谅解备忘录).

From June 30 to July 5, Governor General Michaëlle Jean visits China.

From November 10 to 12, the Institute of Asian Research (IAR) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS, 上海国际问题研究院) (Shanghai, China) co-host the conference, "Past and Future in China-Canada Relations".

2010

Canada and China expand the 2005 Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Air Transport (中国政府和加拿大政府民用航空运输协定).

In July, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada John Baird visits China, stating that a "new era" in Canada-China relations exists, referring to China as "a country that is both a clear priority for our government and important to our economy".

From October 7 to 14, Minister of International Trade Ed Fast visits Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Suzhou, Beijing, and Qingdao with the aim of promoting Canadian competencies in the fields of aerospace, financial services, energy, advanced manufacturing, education, agri-food, and natural resources.

2012

From February 7 to 11, Prime Minister Stephen Harper visits China as Premier Wen Jiabao's guest. Harper visits Guangzhou (Guangdong) where he pledges to strengthen energy cooperation with China. China agrees to loan two giant pandas to Canadian zoos for a 10-year research program.

In February, Canada and China sign:

- MOU on Energy Cooperation between the National Energy Administration of China and the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources (中国国家能源局与加拿大自然资源部关于能源合作的谅解备忘录).
- Protocol on the Quarantine and Sanitary Requirements for the Export of Industrial Beef Fat from Canada to China (加拿大向中国出口工业用牛油脂的检疫和卫生要求议定书).
- China-Canada Cooperation Arrangement on Inspection and Quarantine Access Issues (中加关于检验检疫准入问题的合作安排).
- MOU on the Cooperation Plan for the Risk Control of Canola Stem Canker

Pathogen between China and Canada (中加关于油菜茎基溃疡病菌风险控制合作计划谅解备忘录).

- MOU between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources on the Sustainable Development of Natural Resources (中国科学院与加拿大自然资源部关于自然资源可持续发展合作的谅解备忘录).
- MOU between the Ministry of Education of China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada on the Sino-Canada Scholar Exchange Program (signed 1973 and renewed in 2012) (中国教育部与加拿大外交和国际贸易部关于中加学者交换项目的谅解备忘录).
- MOU on Cooperation in Protected Land Affairs between the State Forestry Administration of China and Parks Canada (中国国家林业局与加拿大公园管理局关于保护地事务合作的谅解备忘录).
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Technology Development of Eco-Cities in China (中国住房和城乡建设部与加拿大自然资源部关于中国生态城市技术发展合作的谅解备忘录).

In June, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) training ship Zheng He visits Halifax.

In July, Canada and China sign:

- Protocol of Agreement on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Canada (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府和平利用核能合作协定>议定书).

On July 19, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and leader of China's National Energy Administration Liu Tienan sign:

- Supplementary Protocol to the 1994 Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and the Protocol Administrative Agreement (NCA) (中加核能合作协定补充议定书以及议定书行政安排).

“NCAs establish reciprocated obligations to minimize risk associated with major nuclear items. These include assurances that exports are properly protected, safely handled and used for peaceful purposes, and that Canada maintains control over nuclear exports.”
Canada and China sign the 2012 Canada-China Uranium Protocol, which supplements the 1994 Canada-China NCA. “Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International

Trade estimates that each year the nuclear industry generates revenue of CAD\$5 billion (USD\$4.9 billion) through power production. It also exports about CAD\$1 billion worth of uranium and directly employ about 21,000 people.”

On August 15, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway Ed Fast, and Minister of Commerce Chen Deming issue a joint press release to announce the publication of the Canada-China Economic Complementarities Study.

On September 9, Canada and China sign:

- Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Canada on the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investment (中华人民共和国政府和加拿大政府关于促进和相互保护投资的协定).

In November, Canada and China sign:

- Protocol to Amend the Air Services Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Canada (关于修订<中华人民共和国政府与加拿大政府航空运输协定>的议定书).
- The Action Plan of the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the Canadian Department of Transport on Civil Aviation Safety (中国民用航空局与加拿大运输部关于民用航空安全的行动计划).
- Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.

2013

On March 23, Prime Minister Stephen Harper greets two Pandas named Er Shun and Da Mao who are loaned to Canada for a period of 10 years. The Pandas will spend their time in zoos in Toronto and Calgary.

From April 7 to 12, Minister of International Trade Ed Fast leads a mission to China and Japan. The Minister of International Trade meets with Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng.

On May 10, Vice Chair of the NPC Standing Committee meets with the Speakers of Canada’s Parliament.

On July 4, State Councillor Yang Jiechi and Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird meet in Zhongnanhai, Beijing. The Foreign Minister also meets with Wang Yi, China’s Foreign Minister.

2014

From October 9 to 18, Foreign Minister John Baird visits Chengdu and Chongqing to meet political and business leaders. The Foreign Minister also attends talks in Shanghai (October 11 to 13) and Beijing (October 16-18).

From October 16 to 24, Governor General David Johnston visits China.

From November 12 to 13, Vice Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Shen Yueyue meets Senator Donald Neil Plett and Wai Young who lead a delegation from the Canada-China Parliamentary Association.

On February 27, Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Vice Foreign Minister Xie Hangsheng meets with Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification) Lynne Yelich in Beijing.

From May 18 to 24, Minister of International Trade Ed Fast and a delegation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Canada travel to Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

On June 18, Minister of Agriculture Gerry Ritz visits China.

From July 28 to 30, Foreign Minister John Baird visits China, where he meets with Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing to discuss the claim that China sponsored hackers in their attack on a National Research Council computer system in Ottawa.

On July 31, the Foreign Ministry of China calls Canada's accusation that Chinese hackers attacked a government computer network in Ottawa irresponsible, claiming that Canada lacks any credible evidence to substantiate the accusation.

On August 4, Canadian Evangelists Kevin and Julia Garratt are detained by Chinese authorities and accused of stealing military secrets. The two have lived in Dandong, China for the past 30 years, where they owned a Christian coffee shop and previously worked as English teachers.

On September 1, a Canadian delegation meets with Vice Chair of the NPC Standing Committee Zhang Ping.

On September 12, the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper ratifies the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) with China. The treaty comes into effect on October 1, 2014.

On November 6, Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrives in China for a four-day visit.

On November 8, Canada and China sign multiple trade agreements including and concerning increased renminbi trade; Foreign Affairs Ministers Dialogue and an

2015

Economic and Financial Strategic Dialogue; MOU on Nuclear Co-operation; Air Travel; Transit Without Visa Program; Health Sector; Cherry exports from BC to China.

The Prime Minister meets with Premier Li Keqiang to discuss the situation regarding Kevin and Julia Garratt who are detained by Chinese authorities on suspicion of espionage.

On November 9, Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with President Xi Jinping.

Between 2015 and 2018, Ottawa's optimism of Canada-China relations are equivoiced by growing wariness and concern on several fronts: China's alleged use of Chinese tourists and visiting students as intelligent operatives/spies; Chinese cyber-attacks launched against Canada from China and allegedly supported by China; Chinese espionage in Canada's research sectors and areas of critical industry and manufacturing; the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service's (CSIS) concern that Beijing seeks to recruit agents within Canada to influence political agendas.

On February 5, Julia Garrett, wife of Kevin Garrett, is released on bail. Her husband remains in Chinese custody on charges of undertaking spying missions.

On February 27, China follows Taiwan, Korea, Peru, and Belarus in restricting Canadian beef imports over concerns of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or "Mad Cow Disease") discovered in Alberta.

On April 20, Beijing hosts the 15th Political and Security Consultation between the Foreign Ministries of Canada and China.

On May 9, China issues the first 10-year visa for Canadian business and tourist travel to China.

On June 30, the signing of the MOU on charter flight cooperation between Guangdong Nanhu International Travel Service Co. Ltd. and Ottawa Tourism takes place.

On August 5, the Fourth China-Canada Cultural Dialogue is held in Toronto.

On September 29, regular non-stop flight service (Air China in cooperation with Air Canada) from Beijing to Montréal is introduced.

Following the Canadian federal election on October 19, 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau begin his tenure with an optimistic attitude about Canada-China relations. The Canadian administration talks of plans to build a free trade agreement with China. Beijing rejects Ottawa's "progressive" trade agenda over issues of human rights, labor standards, gender equality, and environmental protection provisions. China views this as an attempt to interfere in its internal affairs.

2016

November 15, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with President Xi Jinping for the first time at the 2015 G20 Antalya summit (2015年二十国集团安塔利亚峰会). President Xi proposes a long-term, stable strategic partnership with Canada.

On November 17, Foreign Minister Wang Yi meets with Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion in Manila, Philippines.

On January 12, Vice Minister of Trade and Economic Affairs Han Jun visits Canada and engages in talks about further economic cooperation with Canada including the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

On January 27, the Government of Canada and the Embassy of China co-host a reception and hold a photo exhibit to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On February 25, the plenary session of the Sixth Meeting of the China-Canada Joint Committee (CCJC) on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation is held in Ottawa.

From May 31 to June 6, Foreign Minister Wang Yi meets with Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau regarding the upcoming visit to China in September.

On June 5, Ambassador Luo Zhaohui publishes an article on Canada-China relations in The Globe and Mail entitled, "China and Canada: A Deepening Friendship".

From August 30 to September 6, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visits Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

On August 31, Canada formally announces its decision to apply for membership with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB, 亚洲基础设施投资银行).

In September, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau begins a five-day state visit to Beijing, following his participation at the G20 Summit (G20峰会) in Hangzhou and a visit to Hong Kong.

On September 12, the first China-Canada High-Level National Security and the Rule of Law Dialogue is held in Beijing, during which the two countries discussed such issues as combatting terrorism, cybercrime, transnational organized crime (TOC), law enforcement, and consular affairs.

On September 15, Chinese authorities release Kevin Garrett after being held in custody for two years on suspicion of spying. Garrett was arrested along with his wife Julia in August 2014.

From September 21 to 24, upon invitation from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council of China visits Canada to “build a more solid and stable foundation for Canada-China relations.” Premier Li meets with several high-level political figures, including the Governor General David Johnston. Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Li attend the 6th Canada-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum in Montréal. During their meeting, both leaders agree to work towards promoting “practical cooperation” in the following sectors: agriculture, energy, manufacturing, financial services, and infrastructure. Discussions preside over an array of topics with both sides announcing a series of “cooperation progress and signed relevant cooperation documents” on 29 points.

In November 2016, Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAuley leads the largest agriculture delegation to China.

From December 15 to 19, China’s fleet 546 makes a “goodwill visit” to Victoria Harbor.

2017

In March, the Government of Canada asks the “Canadian public and interested Canadian stakeholders to help define Canada’s interests in a possible FTA with China, and identify ways of maximizing the economic and social benefits of such an agreement.” The consultation deadline is set at June 27, 2017 (see, <http://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/china-chine/index.aspx?lang=eng>).

On February 16, regular non-stop flight service (Air China in cooperation with Air Canada) from Shanghai to Montréal is introduced.

2018

On November 1, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister for Parks Canada Catherine McKenna, and Minister of Ecology and Environment of China Li Ganjie sign:

- Memorandum Of Understanding Regarding Climate Change Cooperation (关于气候变化合作的谅解备忘录).

On December 1, Canadian authorities arrest Huawei Technologies chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, upon her arrival at Vancouver International Airport following a request for extradition by US authorities.

On December 6, Chinese authorities respond to Meng’s arrest, arguing that Meng did not break any US or Canadian law and calls for her immediate release. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asserts that Canada’s independent judiciary will decide on Meng’s extradition case, “without any political involvement or interference.”

December 8-9, Canadian Ambassador John McCallum and US Ambassador Terry Branstad are summoned by China and told that there will be “grave consequences” if Meng is not released.

On December 10, Chinese authorities detain Canadian consultant Michael Spavor and former diplomat Michael Kovrig without reasonable or probable grounds, and are later arrested on charges of harming China's national security (stealing state secrets).

On December 11, Canadian authorities release Meng on USD\$7.5 million bail.

On December 12, China's foreign ministry denies having any information about Kovrig.

On December 13, President Donald Trump's trade advisor Peter Navarro calls Beijing's arrest of Spavor and Kovrig a direct response to Meng's arrest and the move is commonly described as "hostage diplomacy". Both Canadians remain detained without contact.

On December 15, China condemns Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's criticism of China's arbitrary judicial system and death sentence. China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying called for the Prime Minister to "respect the rule of law, respect China's judicial sovereignty, correct mistakes and stop making irresponsible remarks".

On December 21, the Canadian government formally demands the release of Spavor and Kovrig. Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland states, "we [the Government of Canada] are deeply concerned by the arbitrary detention by Chinese authorities of two Canadians earlier this month and call for their immediate release".

On December 22, China calls on the US to withdraw its arrest warrant for Meng. China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying asserts that the extradition treaty that Canada shares with the US violates the "safety and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens".

2019

On January 14, The China's ambassador to Ottawa Lu Shaye writes an op-ed in the Hill Times, accusing Canada and its partners of "Western egotism and white supremacy" after Canada called for the release of Spavor and Kovrig. Tensions increase after the sixth court of the Dalian Intermediate People's Court sentences Canadian citizen, Robert Lloyd Schellenberg, to death for drug smuggling – he is the fourth Canadian given the death sentence in China in the past four years. The sentence overturns his previous 15-year sentence from November 20, 2018. Beijing and Ottawa exchange harsh words over recent incidents involving Meng, Spavor, Kovrig, and Schellenberg. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo calls the death sentence "politically motivated".

On March 6, China's foreign ministry announces a ban on some imports of Canadian canola on the basis of insect infestation concerns. On May 2, China suspends the export permits of two Canadian pork exporters.

On June 19, Spavor and Kovrig are formally charged with "spying". Spavor is formally charged on suspicion of espionage for state secrets and intelligence. Kovrig is charged on suspicion of spying on for a foreign entity and sharing state secrets and intelligence.

From July to September, two Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) frigates (HMCS Regina and HMCS Ottawa) pass through the controversial Taiwan Strait over a three-month period. The move, which directly challenges China's territorial claims over the waterway and self-ruled Taiwan, is viewed as an expression of support for the United States.

In October, Beijing sharply criticizes former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit to Taiwan. The former Prime Minister is part of a delegation of foreign representatives attending the annual Yushan Forum (玉山论坛) and meets with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen.

On November 5, China lifts its ban on the import of Canadian pork and beef products.

2020

In August, CSIS warns of China's possible efforts to recruit Canadian scientists through academic recruitment programs in its "Thousand Talents Plan" (TTP) (海外高层次人才引进计划 or "千人计划"), created in 2008.

Beijing ceased publishing the names of TTP participants in September, 2018.

In October, Canada begins accepting Hong Kong pro-democracy dissidents as refugees, angering China.

In its November 2019 report entitled, "Threats to the U.S. Research Enterprise: China's Talent Recruitment Plans," the US Senate called the program a campaign to recruit experts to aid in the development of China's economy and military.

On November 17, Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole calls on the Liberal government to take a tougher position on China during a press conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. He highlights the growing influence of the "communist regime," including its human rights abuses, intellectual property theft, and manipulative trade practices. He states there is "no greater threat to Canada's interests than the rise of China."

2021

On February 22, Canada's House of Commons votes to declare that China is committing genocide against Uyghurs in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Cabinet abstain from the vote.

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