

CHINA WATCH

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CHRIS WATTIE / REUTERS

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire arrive with his cabinet before his swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Nov 4.

A NEW TRUDEAU, A NEW ERA

It was the father of the newly elected Canadian prime minister who opened relations with Beijing decades ago. Now a renewed diplomatic effort is underway, **Eddy Lok and Na Li** report.

A new chapter in onetime frosty but now steadily warming Canada-China relations has opened with Canada's new Liberal government promising to unleash the full potential of more fruitful years to come for both countries in a host of areas including trade, economic cooperation and other common goals.

Expected to improve and develop are the government-to-government relationship between Ottawa and Beijing, socio-cultural exchanges, trade and investment opportunities, economic and technological cooperation, tourism and education.

Under a new and younger Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the outlook appears reassuring and bright for Canada-China relations, which were established by none other than his late father Pierre Trudeau when he was prime minister decades ago.

Today, challenges remain. "We are already seeing a marked change, more respect of partners and adversaries, welcome for refugees and a restoration of Canada's past efforts to build bridges of understanding," said Professor Wendy Dobson of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto and a former associate deputy minister of finance in the Canadian government.

China and Canada are unequal in size when it comes to their economies and markets as well as populations, but the new prime minister is poised to pursue stronger relations with Beijing. Those relations experienced hiccups in the early years of the previous Conservative government, but had picked up a weak but steady momentum in recent years, Dobson said.

The youthful and telegenic Trudeau, 43, set the tone to



MARK BLINCH / REUTERS

Syrian refugees are greeted by Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (left) on their arrival from Beirut at the Toronto Pearson International Airport on Dec 11.



I am well aware we have an opportunity to set a fresh approach in our relationship right now."

JUSTIN TRUDEAU
CANADA'S PRIME MINISTER, TOLD PRESIDENT XI JINPING DURING G20 SUMMIT

forge stronger ties when he met President Xi Jinping at the recent G20 Summit in Turkey, saying he wanted a fresh approach for greater cooperation, since his late father forged diplomatic relations with China in 1970 and made a historic visit to Beijing in 1973 as prime minister.

"I am well aware we have an opportunity to set a fresh

approach in our relationship right now. I certainly hope this is going to be an era of greater cooperation and mutual benefit for both Canada and China," Trudeau told Xi on the sidelines of the summit on Nov 16.

Trudeau touched on developing and strengthening economic, political and cultural ties with China during the meeting.

Dobson expects a more strategic approach by the Liberal Government which recognises the economic complementarity with the massive Chinese economy as the country beckons China's investors and businesses, state-owned enterprises, tourists, students and even immigrants.

She said Trudeau is expected to look for common interests with China "even when we might disagree on some things, and also teach Canadians about China's growing importance in the world".

In foreign policy, Dobson also expects more involvement in building regional institutions that encourage China and the US to cooperate even as they compete, as they both remain Canada's foremost trading partners.

Meeting with Trudeau, Xi offered praise for the elder Trudeau for establishing ties with China in 1970. "That showed extraordinary political vision," Xi reportedly told Trudeau.

Pierre Trudeau served two stints as Canada's prime minister from 1968 to 1979 and 1980 to 1984. He died in 2000 at the age of 80.

In reply to Xi, Trudeau said he saluted the 45 years of strong relations between Canada and China and extended an invitation to Xi to visit Canada.

The leaders looked forward to continued cooperation and regular dialogues on

\$73 billion
amount of Canada's trade with China

74 percent
number of Canadian companies projected to expand trade with China in 2016

issues of mutual interest including economic growth, security and cultural issues, according to Arnold Chan, MP for Scarborough-Agincourt, who was appointed Deputy Government House Leader on Dec 2 in Ottawa. They also looked forward to working together in multilateral forums such as the UN, G20 and APEC.

"We will work further on strengthening economic, political and cultural ties between our two countries. This includes the possibility of a free trade agreement," Chan said.

David Mulroney, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said Trudeau's challenge is to move the relationship beyond any nostalgic notion of Canada-China relations and advance Canadian interests with an important global player.

Trudeau has pushed for more trade and investment with China since his new government took office on Nov 4. He has made trade with China and India a top foreign policy priority.

A free trade agreement (FTA) with China is now being explored more seriously under Trudeau, who has said he is generally in favour of free trade.

An FTA could only benefit Canada, and urgency is of the essence, said Sarah Kutulakos, the executive director of the Canada China Business Council (CCBC).

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TRADE: Business outlook hopeful

FROM PAGE 1

"Canada needs China more than China needs us. If Australia is willing to conclude an agreement and Canada doesn't, we will be marginalised in dealing with China," she said.

In 2012, Canada and China concluded a Canada-Economic Complementarities Study, which was designed as a precursor to free trade negotiations.

Back then, China offered to launch negotiations immediately but Canada chose not to take action, according to Kutulakos, who pointed out that it took the Australians and Chinese 10 years to reach an FTA, which has just been put in effect.

She said the time was right to pursue a trade agreement with China.

"Competitor countries have continued to be more aggressive in their approach towards China," she said.

She said tariff reductions inherent in an FTA would have a strong impact on Canadian companies, and



Arnold Chan, Deputy Government House Leader



David Mulroney, former Canadian ambassador to China



Wendy Dobson, professor at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto



Sarah Kutulakos, executive director of the Canada China Business Council

recent calls by prominent Canadian business leaders showed that there was an appetite for progress.

"CCBC is hopeful the new Canadian government would take action to begin negotiations soon, and Trudeau's recent meeting with Xi and the specific mention to expand trade bode well for this," she said.

According to HSBC Canada Executive Vice-President Linda Seymour, despite China's economic slowdown, the outlook for Canadian firms doing business in the country remains firmly positive.

HSBC's research projects that 74 percent of Canadian companies expect to expand trade with China next year.

Kutulakos said China's role in the overall market is one of competing and



Canada needs China more than China needs us."

SARAH KUTULAKOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CANADA CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

internationalising, and Canadian companies need to do the same, as it is a global market.

She compared Canada to Australia, with the latter chalking up more than \$150 billion in trade with China compared to Canada's \$73 billion, suggesting a more aggressive approach by Australia.

With the trade push by the Trudeau government, changes may be in the pipeline and a fresh era might emerge, spurred by Canada's first RMB trading hub in Toronto that became operational in March this year.

The hub has created a simmering-upward momentum for trade with China not just for Canada but the whole North America region.

It is one of the latest to join the growing number of such centres around the world. China is strongly pushing to see the RMB's use on a global scale.

The hub reinforces Toronto's stature as North America's second-largest financial centre, and is expected to support increased trade.

"The RMB hub is good and very important. The responsibility lies in Canadian financial institutions and businesses to use it to their advantage since they can save money, especially with big opportunities for the export of food products.

"Chinese companies would rather pay in RMB instead of a foreign currency, which is complicated," Kutulakos said, adding that the hub gives Canada a strong advantage for RMB trading among companies in North and South America, which can all leverage the location to trade during the day.

The IMF's recent approval for RMB to join the Special Drawing Rights currency basket shows the forward momentum in this

liberalization, she added. "The average Canadian company needs to be negotiating with its Chinese clients and suppliers to use RMB for transactions," Kutulakos said.

"The elimination of the use of a third country currency lowers transaction costs for both sides, leaving more money in the pockets of the companies buying and selling the goods. It's a definite win-win; the key now is awareness and activation," Kutulakos said.

With things put in place, the new outlook for Canadian firms doing business in China remains positive, and Kutulakos said they must be committed to the Chinese market and be willing to take the risk of competing.

"There are many opportunities, and Canada has lots to offer what China needs, but selling to China is not simple. We need patience and focus in dealing with Chinese businesses. We can't just go in there one year and expect things to be perfect. We need time," she said.



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British Columbia Premier Christy Clark (left) and Minister Teresa Wat (second from right) check out the new Huawei phone at Huawei's headquarters in Shenzhen during the China Trade Mission 2015.

BC premier: Trade with China helps lift province

By DAVID HOU

British Columbia Premier Christy Clark recently highlighted how essential foreign trade is to the province.

Clark offered a personal greeting at a fundraising gala hosted by the Richmond Centre BC Liberals on Nov 24 that attracted nearly 300 attendees.

Her opening remarks were decidedly focused on trade and emphasizing strong relations with China, as well as recognizing the Honourable Teresa Wat, BC minister of international trade, for her work in the area.

"Now you know why trade is important," Clark said to members of the business community. "You know that without trade, British Columbia, we can't grow. We are a province of a small, open economy in a very big, competitive world.

"And if we don't trade, we don't create wealth," she said. "And if we don't create wealth, we don't create jobs. And if we don't create jobs, we can't create the kind of fair society that we have in Canada where we have the opportunity to share resources, build a great education system, [and] build a great healthcare system.



You know that without trade, British Columbia, we can't grow. We are a province of a small, open economy in a very big, competitive world."

CHRISTY CLARK
BC PREMIER

Clark said that "without trade, we could never have built this country that is the envy of the world".

She lauded the growth of China-Canada trade relations and the diversification of Canadian trading partners in general. She noted that while the United States had been the main market for Canadian goods in the past, it is necessary to broaden British Columbia's economic scope. "When you've only got one customer, you only get one price," she said.

Clark also discussed her recent trade delegation to China last

month, as she and roughly 200 business and community leaders formed one of the largest trade delegations in BC history.

The trip celebrated the 20th anniversary of sister-province relations between British Columbia and Guangdong, as well as the establishment of trade agreements with an increasingly environmentally conscious China.

She and Wat signed two Memoranda of Understanding during the trip, one on ensuring clean technology development and the other on trade and investment. The agreements extended from the municipal to the provincial, as both the city of Shenzhen and the province of Guangdong signed the deal.

"Historically, BC's cultural ties with Guangdong run deep," Wat said. "Most Canadians of Chinese descent come from Guangdong, and there are about 20,000 Canadians who live in Guangdong"

"Pierre Trudeau, the former prime minister (and new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's father), was the first (leader) of a Western country to establish diplomatic relationship with China, so everyone in China remembers him," Wat said.

British Columbia promotes virtues of its wood products

By LOUISA YOU

British Columbia is always looking for ways to expand its lumber exports, particularly to such a large markets as Asia.

The annual British Columbia Forestry Asia Trade Mission to China and Japan went from Nov 27 through Dec 5. The trip was led by Steve Thomson, minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The delegation included more than 30 senior executives from forest companies and associations across British Columbia.

This trade mission was Thomson's fourth to China and Japan as forests minister since Premier Christy Clark tasked him with annual forestry trade missions to Asia.

In 2014, BC's forest industry supported more than 146,000 direct and indirect jobs across the province, and forest products accounted for 36 percent of all exports.

The forest sector currently represents \$12 billion of the province's GDP.

"Japan and China are our second- and third-most important markets, so annually we go to make sure that we can continue to help build markets for our industry in those very important areas," Thomson said. "Trade missions are critical to the provincial strategy to secure new investment."

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan, which seeks to manage economic uncertainty, called "expanding

markets for BC products and services, particularly in Asia" a fundamental pillar of the economy.

In the words of Susan Yurkovich, president and CEO of the Council of Forest Industries, "[international] trade missions are vital for creating and maintaining strong bonds between the BC forest industry and our partners in overseas markets".

"These trade missions allow us to tell our story directly to our customers, reminding them that when they buy BC wood, they're not only getting the highest-quality products in the world, but they also know that those products come from sustainably managed forests," she said.

In 2014, China received 25 percent of BC's softwood lumber exports, totaling \$1.43 billion, making China BC's second-largest market for softwood lumber products. Japan is the third-largest market with 13 percent, or \$731 million.

The expansion and development of Asian markets for BC lumber is a large part of the forest sector's recovery from the worldwide recession in 2010. Jobs increased 7 percent, and exports were up 20 percent.

"[The United States] is our largest market but ... one of the very important approaches ... for the forest industry in British Columbia is to build a diversified market so we have lots of opportunities," Thomson said.



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Delegates on a trade mission from British Columbia watch how the Longhua Wooden Products Co Ltd uses high-quality BC wood at a factory in Dalian, China.

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Opening a new chapter

An article contributed exclusively to China Daily China Watch
by Chinese Ambassador to Canada **Luo Zhaohui**

Recently Canadian media have been talking a lot about two words. One is "change" or "real change," which means the Liberal government has made a comeback. The other is "back," or "Canada is back," meaning Canada is back on the world's stage. The diplomatic community in Ottawa has taken note of the meaning of these words with great interest.

Some Canadian media keep asking me if I have greater expectations for China-Canada relations after Canada's new government took office. My answer is YES. Our optimism is well founded.

First, while China has all along attached great importance to its relations with Canada, Canadian governments under the Liberal Party have traditionally attached equal importance to Canada-China relations.

In the early 1960s, Canada took the lead in breaking the Western trade embargo against China, exporting wheat to China. Canada's wheat export was a timely help to the Chinese people, just like "sending firewood in a snowy winter".

In 1970, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, with extraordinary political vision, made the historic decision to establish diplomatic ties with China, making Canada one of the first major Western nations to recognise the new China.

In the 1990s, during the premiership of Jean Chrétien, two CANDU reactors were exported to China. The CANDU project is a milestone in China-Canada cooperation.

In 2005, during the premiership of Paul Martin, Canada and China launched their strategic partnership.

We have reason to believe that with the new Canadian



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Chinese Ambassador to Canada Luo Zhaohui

government led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, China-Canada relations will be stronger and have a brighter future.

Secondly, a good start has been made in China-Canada relations since the Liberal government took office.

Shortly after the Liberals' electoral victory, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang had a phone conversation with the prime minister-designate, Justin Trudeau, on Oct 28.

On Nov 16, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Turkey. This was their first meeting.

The foreign ministers of our two countries held formal talks in the margins of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Manila.

The signal sent out from

these meetings and talks has been positive. Leaders of our two countries have agreed to strengthen the China-Canada strategic partnership, charting the way forward for what we should do next to grow bilateral cooperation.

Thirdly, thanks to the joint efforts from both sides, including the government under former Prime Minister Stephen Harper over the last decade, a solid foundation has been laid for the development of China-Canada relations.

On the front of trade, China has been Canada's second-largest trading partner for many years. Last year, our bilateral trade was valued at US\$55.2 billion.

The China-Canada Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement came into force in October 2014. As of the end

of the last year, China's total investment in Canada was US\$58.3 billion.

Good things never come alone. In 2015, we have made headway in a number of areas of practical cooperation. The first RMB clearing centre in North America is up and running in Toronto. The Beijing-Montreal non-stop flights have taken off. Long-term visas have been issued.

There are now over 110,000 Chinese students studying in Canada. The 2015-2016 China-Canada year of people-to-people and cultural exchanges is now in full swing. Chinese outbound tourists to Canada reached almost half a million last year.

I have worked in Canada for a year and a half. I have been to all Canada's provinces and territories (except Nunavut). During my visits, I have heard a lot of stories about our mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Clearwater Company in Nova Scotia told me the story of how its live lobsters were exported to China. When I was in the Northwest Territories, I learnt the story of Chinese tourists travelling to the Arctic on an expedition and aurora borealis tour. I have also learnt the story of how Canadian experts help Chinese farmers increase oat production dramatically. Bombardier has lots of cooperation with China. Two days ago, I hosted a charity dinner for Hospice Care Ottawa and learned a lot about Canada's practice and experience in end-of-life care services.

Fourthly, China's all-round and deep-going reform and its further opening-up has created and will continue to bring about more and better opportunities for the growth of China-Canada relations.

As China Daily readers may be aware, the Central

Committee of the Communist Party of China has just adopted the proposal of China's 13th Five-Year (2016-2020) Plan for social and economic development, which sets forth five principles of development, i.e. innovation, coordination, green development, opening up and sharing.

Under these five principles, China is pressing ahead with its new type of industrialisation, IT application, urbanisation, and agricultural modernisation.

These principles and initiatives of ours tally with the Canadian new government's economic platform in many aspects, such as innovation-driven growth, the green economy, support to small and micro-businesses, and the development of the Arctic. This provides a good basis for the two countries to learn from each other and work together to develop mutually beneficial cooperation and pursue shared development.

Great changes have taken place over the last 10 years. China and Canada are no longer what they were 10 years ago. China is now the world's second largest economy, the largest in Asia. Frankly speaking, China-Canada relations are lagging far behind China's relations with other Western countries. We need to do a lot of hard work to catch up with other G7 countries.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Canada. A variety of celebrations have been held to mark the occasion.

Canada's winter is coming. I still remember when last winter ended, many friends joked with me, "How did you survive your first winter in Canada?" I said, "I enjoy the cold winter here. I look forward to a colder winter and a warmer relationship between our two countries."

Consul general in Vancouver sees bright future with Canada

By JUSTINE HUANG

Liu Fei has witnessed many changes between China and Canada in her four years as China's consul general in Vancouver.

"2015 marks the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the 10th anniversary of strategic partnership between the two countries, and the 20th anniversary of the sister-province relationship between Guangdong and BC," Liu said. "I have to say the relationship between the two countries has grown the most in recent years."

Along with a delegation of 200 business and community members, Liu accompanied British Columbia Premier Christy Clark and Teresa Wat, minister of international trade, and minister responsible for the Asia Pacific strategy and multiculturalism, to China for the 2015 BC China Trade Mission trip last month.

Forty-five events and signings took place on the eight-day trade mission, with the main focus on a cleaner and greener economy.

"I witnessed 12 of the signings in the sectors of culture, economy and travel," said Liu, who said she was delighted to



Consul General in Vancouver Liu Fei

see Poly Culture Group, China's largest art and cultural company, had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish its North American head office in Vancouver.

"Not only will Poly Culture's expansion into North America create jobs for British Columbians, it will bring added richness to our province's multicultural arts scene," Clark said in an interview about her trip.

"The fact that Poly Culture Group has chosen Vancouver shows confidence that our province, which has the second-largest Chinese-Canadian community in Canada, is perfectly situated as a strategic base to promote Chinese cultural industry in North America."

During the trade mission to China, Liu and Clark also visited the mayor of Zhangjiakou in Hebei to discuss the 2022 Winter Olympics in China. Vancouver hosted the 2010 Winter Olympics,

and more cooperation can be expected between both countries. Liu said China welcomes more Canadian experts to Beijing to share their experiences of organizing a major international sporting event.

"Vancouver Film School has also signed partnership agreements with the Beijing Film Academy and the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts to work on movies together," said Liu. "It is a joy to see cultures and ideas are exchanged between the two countries." Vancouver Film School is a world-recognized entertainment arts school located in downtown Vancouver.

Liu told China Daily how education also plays a big role in relations between the two countries.

"There's a growing number of Chinese students studying in Canada these recent years," Liu said. "Canada is one of the world's most popular destinations for international students, because it has a great environment for education."

"We also welcome more Canadian students to study in China," Liu said. "Since 2015, we've given out 15 scholarships every year."

Interview with Chinese Consul General in Toronto Xue Bing

Q&A

Q: As consul general for China based in Canada's largest business city of Toronto, what issues would you like to see be given priority attention?

A: I am very honored to work with friends from all walks of life in Toronto and Ontario to further strengthen our relations. As you may recall, Toronto became the first offshore RMB center in North America last March. This showcases not only the achievement of a concerted effort from both sides, but also the significant role Toronto plays in linking our two economies.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Canada. The bilateral relations are facing new opportunities, and local business communities are eager to do more business with China. There will be great potential for growth in trade if a free trade agreement can be reached between China and Canada in the near future.

Science and technology is another important area that can yield fruitful results through strengthened cooperation. In terms of investment cooperation, both countries need to create a more business friendly environment to attract and encourage mutual investment. And Canada is always welcome to take part in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and explore industrial cooperation for common development with China in third party market. In addition, cultural and people-to-people exchanges also need to be enhanced.



Xue Bing, China's consul general in Toronto

Q: China attaches great importance to the friendly exchanges with Ontario, which is Canada's most economically advanced province. How could cooperation be strengthened?

A: Ontario plays a pioneering role in developing relations with China. In the first eight months of this year, trade volume between China and Ontario reached C\$26.5 billion, an increase of 16.4 percent compared with the same period last year. The volume accounted for 48 percent of the total China-Canada trade.

In November, Premier Kathleen Wynne paid a successful visit to China, and brought back C\$2.5 billion in investment that will create 1,700 jobs. It is in the best interest of both China and Ontario to further strengthen exchanges and win-win cooperation in more areas.

Ontario has also established a commercial technology transfer center in Jiangsu, and I hope more joint research and development programs will be carried out by both sides in such areas as clean and renewable energy, life science and nanotechnology.

The consulate general will spare no effort in continuing to work with the Ontario government for these common endeavors.

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Canada's 1st MP from mainland

Liberal Party member Geng Tan represents Don Valley North in Toronto, **Na Li** reports from Toronto

With 51.4 percent of the vote, Liberal Party member Geng Tan defeated Conservative MP Joe Daniel to win a seat in parliament to represent Don Valley North in Toronto on Oct 19.

Hailed by Chinese Mandarin community members as their "true voice", the political newcomer's win was not only a victory for Liberals, but was also seen as a milestone in the Chinese-Canadian community's efforts to better participate in government and politics.

"I was so excited to be elected," Tan said recalling the win. "It is not easy for immigrants to get their foot in the door of Canadian politics, and I am proud of the best team that made it happen."

As a first-generation immigrant originally from the Chinese mainland, Tan has made Canada home for nearly two decades. Born in 1963 in Hunan, Tan came to Canada on a student visa in 1998. After completing his PhD in chemical engineering and applied chemistry at the University of Toronto, he worked as a scientist at Ontario Power Generation.

Tan's involvement with the community is closely tied to his Hunan associations. He was chairman of the Toronto University Chinese Students Association. After he graduated, he became the founder, first-term executive president and current co-chair of the Council of Newcomer Organizations and vice-chairman of the Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations.

Tan said not enough Chinese immigrants are interested in Canadian



Political newcomer Geng Tan acknowledges supporters after being elected a member of Canada's Parliament on Oct 19. Tan is the first immigrant from the Chinese mainland to be elected to the Canadian Parliament.



I'm just a pioneer, I believe in the future there will be more and more new immigrants participating in politics."

GENG TAN,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

politics. He thinks they lack a voice and need to participate more.

"Sometimes people just lack the confidence to represent themselves," said Tan. "I had an advantage running for election — I study and work with both the Chinese and Canadian communities, so I know

what the actual needs of the Chinese community are and how to put them into practice in Canada."

According to Tan, in a democratic society, citizens are granted rights, and chief among them is being able to participate in elections. "Every citizen has the right to compete for it, but if you don't make an effort, then the loss is your own, and you can't complain about the country or the society," he said.

"If you want to integrate into Canada, just investing in local projects is not enough. With its unique voice, our Chinese community should have a say."

For Chinese immigrants, many of whom want to stay here, the new Liberal MP is an inspiration and an example of how to better integrate into Canadian

society.

"I'm just a pioneer," Tan said. "I believe in the future there will be more and more new immigrants participating in politics. Because of my success today, future election candidates will take a lot fewer detours. For sure, I will do my best to share my experiences and I am willing to help them succeed."

"The fact that I reached such a level today is evidence of this. I greatly thank Canada for making my dreams come true. I'll do my best to serve Canada, for a better tomorrow."

As a newly elected parliamentarian, Tan plans to follow the leadership of newly elected Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"I would like to provide leadership to take care

of the quality of life, the education and the work of thousands of constituents, listen to their voices, and make them part of the country's future development through the Parliament. At the same time, I will convey government policies and related information to voters, in a timely and effective manner, bridging the two sides," he said.

Tan said that he is not only the delegate of the voters to the Parliament, but also a representative of the Parliament to his constituency.

He said he hopes his professional background and community service experience, as well as the voices of various ethnic communities, will combine to take part in the decision-making of Canada's future, especially playing a unique role in

the development and deepening of the Canada-China relationship.

"Throughout history, the Liberal governments of Canada have always maintained a proactive cooperation with the Chinese government, which is reflected not only in the economy and trade, but also in cultural and artistic interchanges," he said.

According to Tan, the importance of Canada-China relations is self-evident and especially true under the leadership of the Liberal government. Throughout the campaign, Liberal Party candidates repeatedly stressed that Canada-China relations should maintain a consistent and in-depth proactive relationship, that Canada should proactively join AIIB and that Canada should negotiate deeply with China, so as to promote the realization of bilateral free trade as soon as possible.

"We believe Justin Trudeau will open a new chapter in Canada-China relations and the win-win cooperation between the two countries will continue," said Tan.

"There are millions of Chinese Canadians living in Canada, and we look forward to proactive cooperation and sound progress between the two countries. Just like the Chinese traditional saying: Visits from far away bring people closer and closer."

Tan said some were surprised that the Liberal Party achieved such big victories in the election, perhaps because they do not understand the general public. From the first day of the campaign, the Liberals stressed "Real Change" as their party platform.

"We talked about this, and now we are doing this," Tan said.

Don Davies: MP champion of the 10-year visa

By **BEATRICE CHAO** and **MAYA LIU**

Don Davies, a Canadian Member of Parliament representing the riding of Vancouver Kingsway, was a key proponent of China and Canada's reciprocal agreement to grant 10-year multiple-entry visas to each other's citizens.

"About a year ago, Canada [started to] give Chinese nationals coming to Canada the privilege of 10-year, multiple-entry visas, but Canadians citizens had to apply for limited visas each and every time they went to China, so we thought that it would be an excellent policy to give Canadian citizens the same [visas]," Davies said.

He was the first Canadian MP to draft a petition on the 10-year visas. He presented Motion 558 in Parliament; the Canadian government then worked with its Chinese counterpart to obtain the 10-year visas for Canadians.

The agreement was announced by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a press conference in Beijing on March 8. The visa will provide more convenience to Canadian passport-holders who travel across the Pacific Ocean frequently for business, family or vacations.

In 2013, an average of 2,000 people traveled between the two countries daily, and Davies expects that number to grow.

"Families who have relatives



Don Davies attends the Vancouver Victoria Drive Lunar New Year Celebration on Feb 21.

still in China can go back and forth much more easily, but it's also excellent for cultural and tourist exchanges, which is good for business," Davies said. "The more people that can move easily between the two countries, the better it is."

China became Canada's second-largest trading partner in 2014, so the multiple-entry visa "makes it much easier for Canadian business people going to China to take advantage of opportunities and conduct business," Davies said.

Davies accompanied David Johnston, Canada's governor general, on an official state visit to China in 2013, where he met with top Chinese leaders.

Davies believes that as China and Canada establish more exchanges, an uptick of Chinese interest in Canada will lead to more tourism revenue and economic benefits for Canada.

Since the 10-year visa policy went into force in Canada on March 9, it has received popular support.

"I've heard from many people

already who have called our office and written to us to thank us for our work on proposing this 10-year visa, and they have told me that they had already started applying," Davies said.

As a Member of Parliament who focuses on citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Davies said he was thrilled that the government adopted the proposal and he hopes to see developments in Chinese-Canadian bilateral relations.

"In particular, I would like to see the process for families here in



Families who have relatives still in China can go back and forth much more easily, but it's also excellent for cultural and tourist exchanges..."

DON DAVIES,
CANADIAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Canada to bring their relatives over to visit, or employers to bring skilled workers over," he said.

With the number of Canadian passport-holders who can trace their origins to the Chinese mainland exceeding 1 million, the visa will increase people-to-people ties.

"People of Chinese heritage comprise almost 40 percent of the riding I represent," Davies told China Daily. "So I take it as a special privilege and obligation for me to try to learn as much as I can about the political, economic, cultural and social issues between the [two] countries, and to strengthen those relations."

Davies expressed his determination to promote exchanges in every field between the two countries. "I hope to continue to have more accomplishments like the 10-year visa over the years ahead," he said.

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Wynne leads \$2.5billion mission

Deals, MOUs signed on full range of sectors

By NA LI

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne began her second trade mission to China in Nanjing on Nov 6 by announcing \$1.2 billion in new agreements.

Menergy Corporation, based in Markham, Ontario, signed four agreements with Chinese companies valued at an estimated \$1.1 billion and that will create 80 new jobs in Ontario.

The new contracts include commitments to develop a large data platform with the Jiangsu Branch of China Telecom valued at \$10 million, a \$300 million regional centralized energy station in China with China Energy Conservation & Environmental Protection Group, the design and installation of a \$200 million geothermal project in China with Gome Group and cooperation with Shenzhen Das Intellitech to invest \$600 million in a regional energy station.

"My second mission to China is already yielding impressive results for the people and businesses of Ontario," said Wynne. "Today's estimated \$1.2 billion in agreements will generate jobs and investments in our province, and the new MOUs in postsecondary education between Ontario and Jiangsu will help our educational institutions share information



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne (centre back) joins deputy director general of Shanghai Foreign Affairs office Zhou Yanjun (to Wynne's right) after an MOU signing ceremony between Ontario and Shanghai on Nov 9 in Shanghai.

and work together on new discoveries."

Wynne also joined the Jiangsu-Ontario University Presidents' Alliance in announcing multiple new MOUs that will help Ontario and Jiangsu postsecondary institutions work together.

While in Nanjing, Premier Wynne and the Ontario science and technology delegation participated in the 4th Global R&D Summit to showcase Ontario's strong culture of innovation and discuss how the regions can collaborate on future science and technology projects.

"This strong start to the China mission is testament to

the strength and diversity of Ontario's economy," said Brad Duguid, Ontario's minister of economic development, employment and infrastructure. "We have a broad range of companies that are both experts in their field and adept at building international partnerships."

Wynne and members of Ontario's delegation met with Chinese companies and research organizations in Shanghai on Nov 9 to sign new agreements valued at more than \$500 million.

There Wing On New Group Canada Inc and Heysroad Technology, ZTE Corp signed a \$210 million agreement to

import food and Canadian nutritional products into China. Shanghai Zhengda Investment Development Co also signed a \$50 million agreement with Wing On New Group Canada to establish an exhibition centre in China and import Canadian produce.

"China is Ontario's second-largest trading partner and the agreements reached in Shanghai are a testament to the strength of our partnership," said Michael Chan, minister of citizenship, immigration and international trade. "This business mission is an excellent opportunity to continue building mutually beneficial government

and business relationships that lead to new jobs and investment for our province."

Wynne also met with the chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region CY Leung on Nov 10 in Hong Kong, Ontario's third-largest export market.

On Nov 13, Premier Kathleen Wynne concluded her second mission to China in Beijing, where 38 new agreements valued at \$750 million were signed by delegates. This brings the estimated total value of agreements from the mission to \$2.5 billion. The agreements are expected to create 1,700 jobs in Ontario.

A PINCH OF ASIA

A Canadian chef in Shanghai eagerly embraces the Eastern flavors he learned to love in Vancouver, but 'fusion' is not his game, he tells **Mike Peters**.

You can admire his ginger salmon or his Chinese cumin chicken. But don't say the word "fusion" around chef Bradley Hull.

"What I do is very much Western cuisine — it is not fusion," says the Canadian-born chef at the Portman Ritz-Carlton in Shanghai. "But I enjoy the Asian flavors a lot, and use the techniques I know to take advantage of them."

The techniques of his training are based on French cooking, so he will make a *beurre blanc* (white butter) sauce with the traditional reduction of vinegar and white wine into which cold, whole butter is blended off the heat to prevent separation. But Hull will add soy sauce to the base as well as the traditional garlic and shallots. His braised pork belly is likewise "not Asian food done in a Western way" but a Western dish augmented with Sichuan peppercorn, another of the Asian flavors he's happy to play with.

That sensibility was probably inevitable for a young foodie growing up in Vancouver.

"I could go down a street and find a lot of food there that's very, very good — especially Asian dishes and ingredients. There was a huge market across from the first hotel I was working at, and a buddy and I were always stopping in shops, see some new ingredient, and ask 'What the heck is that?'" he remembers. "Then we'd get a taste and try to figure out how to use it."

The results could be startling — Hull once made a wasabi sugar to create crystal flowers for his beef carpaccio — but his work leans more to the classical than, say, the trendy molecular approach.

"Foam can be an enhancement to a dish, but never the centerpiece," he says. For



Chef Bradley Hull in his Shanghai restaurant kitchen.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Cheek and squash gnocchi (left) are among Bradley Hull's favorite creations.



instance, he likes to top a hearty pea soup with "Parmesan air" to "lighten it up," but the essence of the dish is traditional and robust. "You can't serve a bowl of air."

Hull says he thinks about about the creation of dishes.

"Every day there may be three or four flavors that come together in my mind," he says. "Then I have to figure out how to get there."

The young chef says his enthusiasm for food began literally when he was still playing in a sandbox.

"Years later, my dad showed me a kindergarten report card he had saved, where the teacher had noted that 'Bradley shows a very strong interest in cooking,'" Hull. "Of course I don't have any memory of what prompted that comment. But my father was

a chef, and my mother was a pastry chef, so from a very early age I was relaxed and at home in the kitchen."

Since those days, Hull has found himself in more hectic commercial kitchens from Vancouver to Toronto to Birmingham, England, but in the Tables restaurant at the Shanghai hotel he comes across as a calm force in any storm.

He's found relief from stress in the sport of boxing, which he took up during his previous Shanghai stint at the 1515 West, Chophouse & Bar, when he and a co-worker decided their occasional game of squash wasn't enough to keep fit. That hobby so intrigued Shenzhen Satellite TV that the broadcaster sent out a crew to film him sparring in the boxing ring at his gym.

"When I first came to

“

Foam can be an enhancement to a dish, but never the centerpiece, then I have to figure out how to get there.”

CHEF BRADLEY HULL

Shanghai, I wasn't as active as I've been all my life," he says, recalling his youth in Vancouver that was filled with activities like skiing, snowboarding and hiking. Tasked with opening a new restaurant in China, he got very caught up in work, in a big, very urban environment where outdoor recreation wasn't in easy reach as it was in Canada.

"Boxing sounded fun — and it's a really good workout. But I'm not really doing it enough to train for a fight like *Brawl on the Bund*," he says a bit wistfully. "The guys getting ready for that train seven days a week, and with my work schedule I'm lucky to get down to the gym twice a week."

Hull has never been the comic image of a stout chef made famous in movies like *Who's Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?*

"I've always had a high metabolism, thank God!" he says when asked about the challenge of a professional life surrounded by butter and cream.

"Sure we're tasting food all the time," he adds, "but many days we never really have a sit-down meal. At the end of the day you may be hungry, but it's still an effort to do more than have a drink and hit the bed. Most chefs I know are on the lean side."

Another diversion he's found outside work: archery. "You have to let your mind go, have to focus on the target," he says.

Content produced by China Daily and distributed in The Globe and Mail

THEY FOUGHT ON TWO FRONTS

During World War II, Chinese Canadians faced discrimination, but as the war's focus shifted to the Pacific, resistance to their service ebbed, **Hatty Liu** reports from Vancouver.

When Canada entered the Second World War in Europe, another conflict already had been brewing at home about the status of its Chinese population.

In the days when even Chinese born in Canada did not have full citizenship rights, and Chinese immigration to Canada was still banned under the Exclusion Act of 1923, there were debates in the federal government, the provinces and each branch of the military on whether Chinese Canadians should be allowed to serve.

Like many young Chinese Canadians in the early days of the war, British Columbia veteran Tommy C.G. Wong was eager to volunteer, "but when some of us went to enlist, they wouldn't accept us", he recalled. "They said they weren't accepting any Chinese."

Wong and more than 100 Chinese Canadians would eventually end up serving in Force 136, a branch of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) whose creation was responsible in many ways for turning the tides of discrimination.

Although Chinese Canadians could usually volunteer in the army in all of the provinces, there were veterans in BC like Wong who recalled Chinese being turned away. BC had the largest Chinese population in Canada at the time, but along with Saskatchewan, it was one of two provinces that did not grant Chinese Canadians the right to vote.

Because provincial voting rights automatically granted the federal franchise, this meant that the Chinese in BC, who were the majority of Chinese in Canada, had no voting rights on the federal level.

BC also was instrumental in getting the federal government to place a nationwide ban on Chinese and Japanese Canadians being called up to active service under the National Resources Mobilization Act of 1940 (NRMA).

Due to the strong associations between military service, patriotic duty and the concept of full citizenship, there was a dreaded possibility that these ethnic groups would demand the right to vote if they were called up to service.

Faced with discrimination

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Mackenzie King, BC Premier T.D. Pattullo stated that this possibility was something "which we in this province can never tolerate".

Neill Chan, another BC veteran who belonged to the same unit as Wong, remembered that when the war started in 1939, he took part in military training for air cadets with the rest of the student body at Vancouver Technical Secondary School.

"As the war went on, the white students all went off to war," Chan said "But they didn't want [the Chinese] since we were 'immigrants', so we stayed in school."

Chan also got a registration to serve in the Chinese Nationalist Army but lacked the funds to travel to China. In Vancouver Chinatown at the time, both he and Wong recalled, there were many campaigns to support China in the war against Japanese aggression, and the prospect of helping out in the Chinese war effort was a major motivation behind Chinese Canadians' attempts to enlist.

Wong recalled that it was only "when the war progressed in the South Pacific and the Japanese were sweeping all of Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Burma, then all of a sudden the Allied forces thought they could use more Chinese help over there".

Marjorie Wong (no relation to



Tommy C.G. Wong, a World War II veteran from British Columbia, attends the opening ceremony for the exhibition on Chinese-Canadian contributions to the war at the Chinese Canadian Military Museum on May 9.

YAXIN LIU / FOR CHINA DAILY



Neill Chan (right) with his fellow soldiers in Force 136 during basic training in India in 1945.

COURTESY OF CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM



Force 136 in India in 1945, with Tommy C.G. Wong at the far left.

COURTESY OF CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM



Tommy C.G. Wong (left) and Neill Chan are interviewed by reporters at the Chinese Canadian Military Museum on July 16.

YAXIN LIU / FOR CHINA DAILY

Tommy), a historian of Chinese Canadians in World War II, has claimed that the "necessary political change in Ottawa" to reduce discrimination against Chinese Canadians during the war resulted directly from the British War Office's request for the Canadian government to send Chinese to serve in the SOE.

In her book, *The Dragon and the Maple Leaf*, Wong noted that the SOE asked to recruit a greater number of Chinese Canadians than were voluntarily enlisted in the Canadian Army. The National Defence Department pessimistically believed it could not call up even 150 men for the SOE to recruit.

In the summer of 1944, the Cabinet War Committee finally permitted Chinese Canadians to be called up for active service. After 1942, draftees called under the NRMA had the choice of serving in the home defence or to go overseas. The majority of Chinese draftees who chose to go overseas were loaned to the SOE in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, which operated under the code name Force 136.

Their bilingualism made them suited to interpretation and communication tasks. If necessary, their appearance and

their Chinese-language skills also made them ideal candidates for training local resistance fighters in Malaysia and Burma and operating behind enemy lines.

"We were supposed to be on a secret mission," Tommy Wong said. "We would have to parachute into Burma during the night and meet up with the local Chinese, since we could communicate with them, and train and organize the local people in how to resist the Japanese advancement."

The SOE was a secret organization formed by the British Ministry of Economic Warfare in July 1940. Its initial purpose was to assist in the training and arming of resistance movements in occupied parts of Europe after the British Expeditionary Force was driven out of the European Continent.

The SOE in Southeast Asia went under the code name Force 136. Its purpose was to help the resistance in occupied parts of Malaysia, Burma and China itself. Basic training for the Canadian recruits took place in Canada, Britain, Australia and India.

According to Marjorie Wong, few people knew during or after the war what the SOE's purpose was. Most of its members were only aware of their own part in

it. The tasks that its members performed were eclectic and varied across regions and situations.

The Canadian media were told not to give publicity to the SOE's recruits, and there would be no disclosure made as to what these Chinese Canadians were being trained or employed in, though they could publish stories about Chinese-Canadian soldiers employed in other areas of the military.

When the war ended in August 1945, Chan and Wong were based in the bush north of Calcutta waiting for their missions to start.

Going overseas

The initial request for Canada to "loan" Chinese soldiers to the SOE in India and Australia referred to the recruits as "wireless operators". Later requests were for men who could be trained as wireless operators, interpreters, translators, liaisons, propaganda operatives and members of "Jedburgh teams", who would be parachuted behind enemy lines to perform sabotage and guerrilla warfare.

Chan was recruited into Force 136 to interpret military communications for the Indian National Army. In addition to being a native Chinese speaker, he had learned Japanese from friends at Vancouver's Strathcona Elementary School, even taking jiu-jitsu lessons in Japantown.

Wong was part of another group that trained to become guerrillas. Chan participated in the same training when he discovered there wasn't a need for more interpreters. There was a long list they had to learn and pass on to the local resistance.

Besides parachuting, getting in touch with the local Chinese and organizing resistance movements, the recruits "had to learn Morse code, how to blow up bridges and demolitions", Wong said. "We learned how to telegraph, how to handle explosives, how to use knives and

hand-to-hand combat.

"When they would drop us in, we were [going to be] more or less alone," he added. "We had to train the local people by ourselves, so we had to know everything."

The missions would have brought them in direct contact with Chinese Nationalist operatives in parts of Burma occupied by Japan.

"There was a Chinese population in Burma, and at the time the Chinese Nationalists already started organizing some resistance groups, and they sent us in there to train them more in the Western style of war," Chan said.

According to Marjorie Wong, recruits had to volunteer to move to each successive stage of the training and to go on missions. Many did not move onto parachute training. They could still be inserted behind enemy lines by submarine or act as interpreters for the invading British Army.

Of the Chinese-Canadian recruits who trained in India, eight had entered the field by the time of the Japanese surrender in 1945, and two more were dropped in afterward. All the others were in training, and many had formed small teams to prepare for their missions.

"The British knew it was a dangerous mission because they issued us cyanide pills that we were supposed to take with us when they sent us in there, and we were supposed to take [the pills] when we were captured," Tommy Wong said. "The chances of coming back were not so good."

What they gained

Wong estimated that he was only about a week away from being called to parachute to Burma when the war ended. He was glad to come home, though he said that the Chinese-Canadian recruits at the time were not fazed by the danger or difficulties facing them.

"At that time we were there, we made a commitment to go wherever they wanted us," he said. "When you're called up and you go active, if you choose to go overseas instead of stay in Canada [for the home defence], then there was no question of not wanting to do something or go somewhere once you're there."

In between their training, the Chinese group in India got to go sightseeing. "We saw the Taj Mahal, we went to New Delhi and Calcutta," Chan said. "We learned a lot in India. I saw how the people there lived, did and saw the things Indians did."

But the most memorable part, Chan added, was when the group was sent into the jungles north of Calcutta between the end of their training and the projected start of their missions.

"We didn't know what was happening, and they were keeping us there for the time being, so we just learned to live off the jungle," Chan said. The army supplied only dry rations, so the Chinese group tried hunting for food and took turns cooking.

"Most of the Chinese were good cooks back at home," he laughed. "We didn't know anything about hunting, though. I remember some of the boys took their machine guns and shot a wild boar, and when they brought it back to the camp to be cooked ... only about a pound of meat was left in the boar. [The rest] was all full of bullets."

Soon after the Cabinet War Committee reversed its stance on calling up Chinese Canadians for active service, the BC Legislature relented to pressure and granted the provincial franchise to Chinese Canadians serving in the war as well as to Chinese-Canadian veterans of the First World War, though the franchise was not given to the whole ethnic group.

Content produced by China Daily and distributed in The Globe and Mail

Bombardier soars in China

Already a world leader in rails and aircraft, the Canadian firm is opening a new chapter in China, Eddy Lok reports.

Already with a history of doing business in China spanning decades, Canadian airplane and train manufacturer Bombardier sees an even bigger potential ahead for cooperation between the two countries, especially now with the "trade push" set in motion by the new Liberal government.

The importance of the China market was not only recognized more than 50 years ago by Montreal-based Bombardier's Chinese division in China itself, but by ongoing sustainable cooperation and expansion that could stretch far into the future.

Collaboration between Bombardier and China goes beyond technology transfer, said Jianwei Zhang, president of Bombardier China, who wants China to look into opportunities with the Canadian business world where many high-tech companies are to be found.

"From a business point of view, Canada and China are complementary in many areas, especially in rail transportation, aviation, mines, education, etc. There is a big potential for cooperation between Canadian and Chinese enterprises," Zhang told China Daily.

Bombardier deals with transportation technology and expertise in aerospace and rail transport and invests in a wide range of core-related transportation products and services in China. It is a ready and willing partner in helping to develop China's Belt and Road Initiative, according to Zhang.

The Initiative extends beyond infrastructure construction to include promoting financial integration, use of the RMB by foreign countries, creating an



The CRH380D bullet train made by Bombardier Sifang (Qingdao) Transportation Ltd departs from Kunshan south station, Jiangsu province in April.

“Bombardier is a unique foreign company which is qualified to supply, through its joint ventures, high-speed passenger trains, metro cars, monorail systems and APMs.”

JIANWEI ZHANG,
PRESIDENT OF BOMBARDIER CHINA

information Silk Road linking regional information and communications technology networks and lowering barriers to cross-border trade and investments.

A new impetus to this end was made by new Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau telling President Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Turkey in November, that he wants a fresh approach and new era for greater cooperation and mutual benefit for both countries in the years ahead.

Zhang, who heads Bombardier

China with eight wholly foreign-owned enterprises and seven joint ventures and about 6,000 employees in China, said the Canadian company has been playing a significant role in the development of China's rail and urban mass transit.

With China's rapid development in the transportation sector, new areas for possible cooperation have surfaced and, according to Zhang, Bombardier is now recognized as the most successful foreign company in the rail transportation sector in China.

"Bombardier is a unique foreign company which is qualified to supply, through its joint ventures, high-speed passenger trains, metro cars, monorail systems and APMs (automated people movers)," he said.

He said Bombardier's success, despite strong competition from domestic Chinese railway producers like China North Rail and China South Rail, hinges on three aspects — advanced technology, proven products and respecting commitments.

Bombardier's long presence in China has seen orders for more than 5,000 railway passenger

cars, more than 10,000 metro cars and more than 560 electric locomotives to date. As for commercial aircraft, Zhang pointed out that Bombardier is one of the main suppliers for China's regional aircraft, and many Chinese airlines showed interest in its newly-launched, so-called industry game-changer C Series aircraft.

Bombardier has entered into a global market-oriented partnership with the Aviation Industry of China and Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China.

As for business aircraft, China does not have the world's largest business aircraft market at present, but it has the biggest potential, with the fastest annual growth rate, he said.

As China's economic situation changes, the objective of Chinese billionaires buying business jets is now also different, said Zhang, who was from eastern China's Shandong province before he left to study in Montreal in 1987.

"It is changing from considering the aircraft as a symbol of wealth and social status to improving efficiency," he said.

"As the world's largest

manufacturer of business planes, Bombardier has the most complete product portfolio to meet the needs of different users. We have the largest market share in China," he added.

To date, the company has delivered more than 120 planes to Chinese consumers, he said.

On Bombardier's cooperation and union with China's New United Group (NUG), including selling signal systems for trains, Zhang said that the Canadian company has had a joint venture with NUG in the field of rail propulsion equipment and systems for 13 years. The joint venture has about a 40 percent market share in China.

"Early this year, we created a new joint venture with NUG in the field of rail control system (signalling)," Zhang said.

Bombardier is sought after for its technical expertise even with the issue of technology transfer remaining sensitive, while NUG provides market access and knowledge to China.

Zhang's goal is to make Bombardier sustainably successful in China, which means maintaining its competitiveness.

Air Canada caters to Chinese travellers

By EDDY LOK and NA LI

In the world's bumpy but robust civil aviation industry, Asia remains a vital part of Air Canada's international route network, with the airline continuously evaluating new route possibilities that include the vast network of air travel in China.

For the Asian market, China — with the number of outbound Chinese travellers projected to balloon to more than 400 million within the next few years — is conspicuously on the radar of Air Canada, one of the 20 leading airlines in the world.

"We believe China will continue to be one of the most important aviation markets in the years to come," said Rocky Lo, Air Canada's director of business development for Asia.

Lo said that Air Canada is continuously exploring new destinations as it expands its international air services, but he declined to reveal the routes, due to competition.

Air Canada operates daily flights from Toronto and Vancouver to Shanghai and Beijing, using its Boeing 787 Dreamliner and flagship Boeing 777 aircraft. In addition, Air Canada is



“We also offer US pre-clearance facilities in both Vancouver and Toronto that make the connection seamless, convenient and efficient.”

ROCKY LO,
AIR CANADA'S DIRECTOR OF
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOR
ASIA

into code-sharing flights with Air China, which operates between Montreal and Beijing.

According to Lo, all of these flights are scheduled to connect the major Canadian cities of Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal with other destinations in the US and Latin America.

In further updating Air Canada's operations to



Air Canada's first 787 Dreamliner parks at Toronto's Pearson Airport.

China, he said the airline operates daily flights between Vancouver-Beijing, Vancouver-Shanghai, Toronto-Beijing and Toronto-Shanghai as well as code shares with Star Alliance partner Air China on its Montreal-Beijing flights.

"We have several code-share arrangements for flights which offer customers a multitude of conveniences like thru-ticketing, thru-check-in, baggage transfers, frequent flyer program reciprocity, including

mileage accumulation and redemption and status recognition," he said.

This is amid the growing number of Chinese tourists, investors, businessmen and even immigrants heading to Canada, and more and more Canadians travelling to China as well.

Lo said Air Canada's international route network is an integral part of its business, and for this year alone, it had launched new services on the Montreal-Venice, Montreal-Mexico City, Toronto-Dubai, Toronto-Delhi and

Vancouver-Osaka routes.

By next summer, Air Canada will be launching new international flights on the Montreal-Casablanca, Montreal-Lyon, Toronto-Prague, Toronto-Budapest, Toronto-Glasgow, Toronto-London Gatwick, Toronto-Warsaw, Toronto-Seoul, Vancouver-Brisbane and Vancouver-Dublin routes.

Lo touched on the incentives for Chinese travellers to choose Air Canada coming to North America, pointing out that the airline offers a transit program that allows

Chinese passport holders to travel from China to US cities via Canada (with same-day connections) without requiring transit visas.

"We also offer US pre-clearance facilities in both Vancouver and Toronto that make the connection seamless, convenient and efficient," he said.

"In many cases, customers do not even need to pick up their checked-in luggage in Canada during the customs clearing process."

As of today, Air Canada is the only carrier between Canada and Beijing and Shanghai to offer premium economy service on its 787 Dreamliner aircraft, said Lo.

"This product is of great interest to customers looking for a more luxurious travel experience from economy class if international business class is out of reach for them," Lo said.

"By June next year, all of our flights to and from China will feature premium economy, which offers premium services, and more spacious seats and leg room as we are in the process of reconfiguring all our Boeing 777 aircraft to feature this new and highly desirable service."

Content produced by China Daily and distributed in The Globe and Mail

Banker optimistic on Sino-Canadian commerce

Zhu Mingxuan, president and CEO at Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Canada), discusses the internationalization of RMB, **Na Li** reports

Q&A

Q: With a new Liberal government in Canada, what is the outlook for Canada and China in terms of further opportunities and challenges? What should both countries be focusing on?

A: Historically, the Liberal government has been more open to the world and has rich experience in economic development. From the family perspective, Trudeau the elder established the relations with China ahead of many Western countries, as Chinese President Xi mentioned in his meeting with PM Trudeau in the APEC, China respects that relationship and Trudeau the elder. I believe PM Justin Trudeau's government has a better understanding about China and is more willing to develop the relationship with China than the previous government, which was stated in his mandate letter to the minister of international trade.

The US is the largest trading partner of Canada, but NAFTA is no longer the NAFTA 20 years ago since the US economy is changing, Mexico is changing, so is Canada and the world. Canada should diversify its economy and pay more attention to the Asian market, especially China, to which Canada should focus more on the trade and investment than the differences. China should do the same thing. There are irreconcilable issues between China and the US, but not between China and Canada. I am very optimistic about the relationship between China and Canada since our two economies are very complementary; Canadian products and services in the agri-food, energy, minerals and high-technology sectors are needed by Chinese customers; and the transportation shouldn't be an issue since the two countries are connected by many direct flights and ocean routes. The Canadian market should be the top tier overseas market for Chinese companies, not to mention the talents available from the Chinese immigrants in Canada, and North American market can be developed through Canada.

The current trade between China and Australia is about US \$200 billion, and the number



Zhu Mingxuan, President and CEO at Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Canada) (ICBK)

should be bigger between China and Canada, which, of course, needs the joint efforts between the public and private sectors from both countries.

Q: China is strongly pushing to increase the use of renminbi on a global scale. The internationalization of its currency is picking up pace with the latest RMB hub to open in one of the world's largest financial centres in Toronto recently, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Canada) has launched the first clearing bank in North America in March. What is your view on this?

A: The Canadian dollar is one of the major currencies, but not the strongest. One of the main reasons is the Canadian dollar's dependency on the oil and minerals, so it is sometimes called "oil dollar". In order to make the Canadian dollar stronger, Canada needs to diversify its economy, which is the challenge for the new Liberal government. In addition, the Canadian economy is having difficulties since both the oil and mineral/metal price is low, and the potential risk of volatility in the real estate market is increasing. The financial sector is one of the strongest in Canada, but sometimes overregulation damages its competitiveness, not to mention the profitability of the banking sector in the world is decreasing.

RMB internalization is picking up pace in the world, including the Americas. The first center in the Americas, the North American RMB Trading Center, was opened on Nov 9 in 2014. Two centers were rolled out in Latin America this year, including Chile and Argentina. Recently, an influential group was formed in the US to push

for its RMB trading center. So now Canada has competitors in this continent. However, Canada still has the first-mover advantage, and its stable and well-regulated financial sector is an additional asset, even better if its economy is more diversified, and takes advantages of the RMB trading center. Canada can be an effective bridge between Asia and North America or even the Americas, Toronto may become one of the world's leading financial centers. The federal government in Canada is "small" in many ways, but needs to drive the economic agenda more aggressively as a country, and private sectors need to move more quickly so to enjoy the benefits of the RMB trading center, otherwise it may not be able to stand out from the competition in the Americas.

Q: Can you enlighten us on the advantages for Chinese investors and investments in Canada, and Canadian businesses and investments in China. How is it doing business in Canada and how is it for Canadian investors interested in China? Your advice and suggestions to succeed.

A: Chinese investors are enthusiastic about investing in Canada, however, I haven't seen much success over the past few years, and the reasons are: First, many Chinese investors lack overseas investment experience, and lack knowledge of the culture and legal system in Canada, which they may learn from Japanese and Korean investors. Second, lack of talent on the ground; however, this may be solved if Chinese investors tap into the talent pool of Chinese immigrants here. Third, Chinese investors tend to do things by themselves, but since they lack experience and knowledge in this country, as I mentioned, they need local partners.

The biggest barrier for Canadian companies investing in China is the misunderstanding of China, and some issues are exaggerated, including the IP issue and fake products.



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

BC Premier Christy Clark (left) meets with Xu Niansha (right), chairman of Poly Culture Group, for the signing of an MOU to establish its North America head office in Vancouver, on Nov 2.

China Poly Group expands reach in North America

By GRACE HU

82

billion yuan

number of transactions by Poly Auction in 2014

Established on the foundation of Poly Technologies, Inc. in February 1992, China Poly Group Corporation was born, under the management of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC). It is a well-established business with multiple major business projects in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and many more. As an important enterprise to the country of China, it focuses mainly on trade, real estate, and culture. Its trade is highly ranked amongst many of the top import and export firms in China, as published by the Ministry of Commerce in 2014.

Recently, China Poly collaborated with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) to invest in the new China International Exhibition Centre. As the market for real estate skyrockets, Poly Real Estate Group Company Ltd creates a multitude of opportunities for individuals and companies. It is one of the top five property developers in China, engaged in the design, development, construction, and sale of residential and commercial properties. An overseas platform for real estate lies with Poly (Hong Kong) Investments Ltd, as it is also a very profitable enterprise. Poly Culture & Arts Co, Ltd invests into a variety of art forms including theatrical performances, theatre management, as well as film and TV production. This successful company reached assets up to 382.9 billion RMB as of 2014.

Poly Culture Group signed the MOU, Memorandum of Understanding with the objective of establishing their second headquarters in Vancouver, the first headquartered in Beijing, China. The second international head office is well on its way, as 2017 will mark the establishment of this enterprise. Premier Christy Clark witnessed the signing of the MOU during her third trade mission to Beijing, China, as joined by the Minister of International Trade, Teresa Wat. The MOU not only permits the expansion of the China Poly Group Corporation, but also the expansion of at least three other business lines in the North American market. In order to establish a North American performance base in Vancouver, Clark, along with Wat and representatives from HQ Vancouver met with Beijing Performance and Arts Group (BPAG) to build on the letter of intent. This was executed in hopes to reinforce the partnership with HQ Vancouver.

Poly Culture Group's main focus is aimed toward performance and theatre management, art business, as well as auction and cinema investment. It wishes to expand its culture and influence into North America as China and Canada further

establish business exchanges. As Vancouver represents the economic hub of the Pacific, it offers convenience for China as well as other major economic ports to create bilateral co-operations. Furthermore, Canada is well known for its hospitality, welcoming many new businesses into its heart of economics.

While it focuses on numerous aspects of culture, Poly Culture is key to providing a market for international exchanges in art. Not only does it include artwork collections but also auctioning. This top transaction platform is offered by Poly Auction, achieving 82.2 billion yuan transactions in 2014. Poly Auction became known worldwide after its museum in Beijing housed the historic bronze sculptures stolen from the Old Summer Palace in Beijing. The representative of Poly Culture stated her wishes to expand their cultural influence not just to Canada but also on a greater global scale.

Furthermore, this Chinese auction house began raising international profile after engaging in increasing competitions with other global players. This company manages over more than 40 theatres as well as producing around 4,500 performances in the past year. It encourages the establishment of global purchase and networks, expanding Asian Culture to the international market. Poly Culture Group Co, Ltd. was listed sixth in 2014 in the "Top 30 Cultural Enterprises in China". This corporation has been re-elected for six consecutive years since the launch of this award in 2008, awarded jointly by the "Guangming Daily" and "Economic Daily".

Poly Culture fosters a strong backbone for cultural enterprises; it promotes the healthy and rapid development of the cultural industry as well as providing an important platform to demonstrate China's cultural reform and developmental achievements. Recent updates show that over 1.3 million Canadian residents are of Chinese origin, thus cultural exchange is highly valued by Poly Culture. The company wishes to better understand their bilateral cwo-operation, infusing both Canadian culture and traditional Chinese culture into their projects. This cultural exchange promotes diversity within the Chinese cultural industry in North America, also perhaps serving as an example of cultural integration as this major Chinese enterprise infuses with North American identity.

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