

Agenda
Item

BC Settlement Efforts related to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Issue: BC expects to receive an estimated 3,500 refugees by the end of the year

Recommended BC Position

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- BC has dedicated \$1M for a Refugee Readiness Fund to expand capacity for private sponsors, community and religious groups that are directly helping refugees.

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Position of Other Jurisdictions

- A federal-provincial ADM level working group has been established to facilitate multilateral engagement on refugees.
- Ontario has publicly offered to accept 10,000 of the incoming refugees.
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- Following the recent attacks in Paris, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall

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has asked Prime Minister Trudeau to extend the timeline of the Syrian refugee resettlement plan.

Key Points

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Background and Analysis

- Since March 2011, Syria has been engaged in a civil war, which has displaced over 11 million people.
- Canada is one of 30 countries around the world that is working with the UN Refugee Agency to provide resettlement opportunities to refugees from Syria.
- Based on historical patterns, it is expected that between 2,700 and 3,500 of the 25,000 refugees from Syria will settle in B.C.
- Annually B.C. receives approximately 37,000 permanent residents and last year our province took in just over 1,500 refugees. These numbers show that provincial services such as health and education are able to absorb the costs of refugees within our current system.
- All resettled refugees are permanent residents upon arrival in British Columbia. This includes refugees who are resettled by the Government of Canada, and refugees who are resettled by private sponsors.
- Provincial services for all refugees resettled to BC include:
 - MSP coverage
 - Enrollment in our schools.
 - Employment programs
 - Child care subsidies

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- Student aid
- Since BC's \$1 million dollar fund was formed in September, the province has consulted with more than 85 stakeholder individuals and organizations from across BC.
- BC government staff has been actively engaged in regional planning sessions with cities, municipalities, the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and federally-funded service providers such as the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC).
- BC has established a cross-ministerial ADM Committee on Refugee Readiness and Response. The committee is comprised of representation from 12 Ministries with the goal of sharing knowledge and information to action BC's response to the impending influx of refugees from Syria.
- In addition, BC has sent a provincial staff person to Ottawa to assist with planning for the resettlement of refugees in BC alongside federal staff at the Government Operations Centre.

MEETING NOTE

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat - Office of the Premier

I. ISSUE NOTE:

PREPARED FOR:	Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Finance
MEETING EVENT:	<p>Meeting with Her Royal Highness, Princess ASTRID of the Kingdom of Belgium.</p> <p>Monday, Oct 26, 2015 / 9:15-9:45am / Premier's Vancouver Office</p> <p>Minister Wat will meet the delegation later in the day to sign a MOU between BC and Belgium's Brussels-Capital Region and to receive the Belgian decoration of <i>Grand Officer in the Order of the Crown</i>.</p> <p>On Oct 27th, Minister Wilkinson will host a dinner for the delegation.</p> <p>Appendix 1 - List of meeting attendees.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Biographies of official delegation.</p>
SIGNIFICANCE:	<p>The 228 member delegation will be visiting Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal (private program), and is comprised of senior government representatives from Brussels, Wallonia, and Flanders, and business representatives from companies, chambers of commerce and federations.</p> <p>This is the largest Belgian delegation to ever visit BC. It is preceded by a visit by His Royal Highness King Philippe (then Prince Philippe) to BC in March 2008.</p> <p>The EU is BC's fifth largest export market, with Belgium's port of Antwerp being a major point of entry for Canadian goods in Europe.</p> <p>EXMAR and Fluxys, a Belgium-based independent industrial shipping company and a natural gas transmission system operator, respectively are both members of the business delegation and will have representatives in attendance at the meeting with HRH Princess Astrid.</p> <p>EXMAR is a partner on the Douglas Channel LNG project, a floating LNG facility to be located near Kitimat. s.17</p> <p>s.17</p> <p>EXMAR will be delivering a presentation on their activities in BC to the delegation later in the day on Oct 26th.</p> <p>A seminar on 'the Belgian Film Industry and Tax Shelters' will be delivered to the business delegation by Michela Ritondo, an international tax expert from Belgium's Fiscal Department for Foreign Investments.</p>
ICEBREAKER:	<p>Belgian liberation by Canadian forces in the Second World War; BC government's support of veterans who were influential in liberating Belgium and western Europe.</p> <p>Minister de Jong holds the rank of Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces Air Force Reserve. Princess Astrid is a member of the Belgian Armed Forces; she is a Colonel in the Medical Unit.</p>

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KEY BC OBJECTIVE:

Promote BC as one of North America's most competitive, flexible, and supportive business climates, with consistent AAA credit ratings, vast resources, low taxes, a stable and well-regulated financial system, and a fiscally responsible government.

Signal BC's continued support for engaging with Belgium to expand co-operation and strengthen energy-related business opportunities.

Recognize that Belgium plays a significant role in Europe's natural gas system. It is expected to increase its LNG demand substantially over the next ten years, and Belgian companies are welcome partners in BC's LNG industry.

KEY MESSAGES:

Welcome HRH Princess Astrid and her accompanying delegation to BC.

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) - BC values the good political and economic relationship we have with Belgium, and hopes that the relationship will be further strengthened as Canada and the EU have reached an agreement-in-principle on the CETA.

LNG – BC acknowledges EXMAR'S further investment and strategic partnership with BC and the Douglas Channel LNG project.

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Euro Bond - On October 1, 2015, BC issued its inaugural public Euro bond issue at a benchmark size of €500 million (about C\$ 750 million equivalent) in the 10 year term. The issue delivered excellent diversification, introducing the province to new investor names and should set the stage for further Euro issuance. BC's triple-A credit rating helped with the success of the offering.

THEIR INTERESTS:

Energy and LNG

CETA – The Belgian business sector is very supportive of CETA; Belgian business leaders participating in this mission are either already present in Canada and projected to expand in North America, or are seriously exploring new investment or trade opportunities.

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Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat - Office of the Premier

II. BACKGROUND:

Canada – Belgium Relations - Belgium is the 11th largest foreign direct investor in Canada. In 2014, Belgium direct investment in Canada was \$5.7 billion; Canadian direct investment in Belgium was \$1.11 billion.

BC – Belgium Relations - In 2014, BC exported \$95.7 million worth of goods to Belgium. The top exports were: wood and articles of wood (\$40.7 million), mineral products (\$26.5 million), and machinery and mechanical appliances (\$13.8 million).

The Brussels-Capital Region has an economic and trade office in Vancouver. In 2013, the BC government opened a Trade and Investment office in Europe (based in London).

LNG – EXMAR is partnered with EDF Trading and AIJVL (AltaGas Idemitsu Joint Venture Limited Partnership) on the Douglas Channel LNG project.

Fluxys is a Belgium-based company, mainly acting as a natural gas transmission system operator. ^{s.17} Aside from natural gas transmission, the company owns and operates the Zeebrugge LNG terminal. The combination of this import terminal with its comprehensive gas transmission system has allowed Fluxys to play a large role in the international gas flows in North Western Europe.

BC-Belgium MOU - The MOU will formalize a framework for discussion, information exchange and cooperative activities, with the long-term goal of strengthening the bilateral relationship between BC and the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR).

BC's Public Euro Bond - The bond was well received by investors, who were mostly European, including central banks/official institutions, fund managers and insurance companies. The province saved about 2 basis points compared to its domestic cost of borrowing.

Belgium is rated AA with Standard and Poor's, and AA minus equivalent with Moody's.

Technology - In June 2014, BC's MOTI and EU TIR Office represented BC at the ERA-Can "Strengthening Science, Technology and Innovation Partnerships between Canada and Europe" in Brussels. The event provided a platform for BC to highlight innovation capabilities and support mechanisms and learn about relevant European funding mechanisms for trans-Atlantic collaborations.

ERA-Can is a project mainly funded by the European Community's Programme for International Cooperation which promotes cooperation between the EU and Canada in science, technology and innovation with a broad range of activities.

Agrifood – In 2014, BC was represented by a contingent of companies, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, at the Seafood Expo Global in Brussels.

BC exhibitors reported an estimated \$29.5 million in sales from their participation in the BC booth at SEG 2014, with one company expecting deals from 30% of the companies they met with. Staff distributed 3,135 product samples over three days while promoting BC as a leading source of high-quality, environmentally-sustainable seafood products. Based on available feedback from the exhibiting companies, participation in the show is expected to lead to increased sales as high as 15 per cent over the next year.

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MEETING NOTE

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat - Office of the Premier

III. APPENDIX 1: MEETING ATTENDEES

1. HRH Princess Astrid
2. Federal Deputy Prime Minister, HE Didier Reynders
3. Minister-President of Flanders, HE Geert Bourgeois
4. Federal Secretary of State, HE Pieter De Crem
5. Secretary of State Brussels-Capital Region, HE Cecile Jodogne
6. Belgian Ambassador, Raoul Delcorde
7. Secretary General Foreign Affairs, D. Achten
8. Economic Counsellor of HM the King, G. Renaux
9. Advisor of HRH Princess Astrid, J. Matthysen
10. CEO Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT), C. Tillekaerts
11. CEO Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX), P. Delcomminette (TBC)
12. Chief Executive Director of Brussels Invest and Export, B. Wilders
13. CEO Federation of Enterprises in Belgium, P. Timmermans
14. CEO Exmar, N. Saverys
15. Managing Director LNG Infrastructure of Exmar, B. Lavent
16. Communication & Public Affairs Manager of Fluxys, R. Van Beurden

MEETING NOTE

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat - Office of the Premier

IV. APPENDIX 2: BIOGRAPHIES OF OFFICIAL DELEGATION

HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium



Princess Astrid, Princess of Belgium, was born in Brussels on 5 June 1962. She is the second child of King Albert II and of Queen Paola.

After her secondary education in Brussels, Princess Astrid studied art history for a year at Leiden in the Netherlands. She completed her education in Geneva, at the Institute of European Studies and in Michigan, U.S.

Princess Astrid is married to Lorenz, Arch-Duke d'Autriche-Este, who became Prince of Belgium in 1995. The couple have five children: Amedeo (21 February 1986), Maria Laura (26 August 1988), Joachim (9 December 1991), Luisa Maria (11 October 1995) and Laetitia Maria (23 April 2003).

Princess Astrid was Chairwoman of the Belgian Red Cross between 1994 and 2007. As Honorary Chairwoman of the Queen Elisabeth Medical Foundation and the European Organisation on Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), she supports clinical and fundamental research.

The Princess is active in the fight against epidemics and pandemics. As "Special Representative" of the Roll Back Malaria partnership, she engages in raising awareness of the deadly consequences of the disease and assists in mobilizing resources to fight malaria.

Princess Astrid is particularly concerned by the plight of victims of violence i.e. domestic violence or violence against civilians in war circumstances. She is engaged in the efforts to ban antipersonnel mines and cluster munition.

Princess Astrid is known to be highly concerned about persons who - through a variety of circumstances - become marginalized citizens. She visits and encourages in many ways those Organisations which offer assistance to those who are in need of help.

End of June 2009 the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Governing Board ratified the appointment of Princess Astrid as a member of the IPC Honorary Board.

Since 22 November 1996, Princess Astrid has been a member of the Belgian Senate as senator by right. She also joined the Belgian Armed Forces on 22 May 1997. The Princess is a Colonel in the Medical Unit.

On June 20th, the Secretariat of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention/Ottawa Convention announced that Princess Astrid - as Special Envoy of the Convention - has joined a task force which will undertake diplomatic efforts to obtain the signature of the Convention by States not yet party to it.

MEETING NOTE

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HE Didier Reynders



Federal Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs
Born in Liège on August 6th, 1958
Married - 4 children

Government positions

- Minister of Finance (1999 - 2011)
- Chairman of the Eurogroup (January - December 2001)
- President of the Ecofin (July - December 2001 / July 2010 - December 2010)
- Minister in charge of the Belgian Buildings Agency (2003 - 2011)
- Deputy Prime Minister since 18 July 2004
- Minister of Institutional Reforms (2004 - 2011)
- Minister in charge of the National Lottery, the Federal Holding and Investment Company (FHIC) and the insurance companies (2007 - 2011)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs since 6 December 2011

Academical functions

- Lecture rat the Hautes Ecoles commerciales of Liège
- Staff member of the Public Law Department at the University of Liège
- Guest lecturer at the Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain business school (UCL))

Political activities

- Chief of staff of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Institutional Reforms, Mr Jean Gol (1987 - 1988)
- Member of the Liège Town Council since October 1988
- Leader of the MR Group of the Liège Town Council since 1995
- Deputy Chairman of the MR (1992 - 2004)
- Member of Parliament since 1992
- Chairman of the PRL-FDF Group (1995 - 1999)
- Chairman of the Mouvement Réformateur (2004 - 2011)

Professional activities

- Lawyer (1981 - 1985)
- Director General of the Local Authorities Department of the Ministry of the Walloon Region (1985 - 1988)
- Chairman of the National Railway Company of Belgium (1986-1991)
- Chairman of the National Society of Airways (1991-1993)

MEETING NOTE

Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat - Office of the Premier

HE Geert Bourgeois



Minister-President of the Government of Flanders,
Flemish Minister for Foreign Policy and Immovable
Heritage

Geert Bourgeois is Minister-President of the first
Flemish Government to be led by the N-VA. He is also
responsible in the government for Foreign Policy and
Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Geert has been a Minister in the Flemish Government
since 2004. In 2009, he became Vice-Minister-
President. Over the years, he has been responsible for matters such as Local and Provincial
Government, Administrative Affairs, Foreign Policy, Civic Orientation, Media and Tourism,
Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Flemish Rand municipalities.

Flemish commitment

Lawyer and attorney Geert Bourgeois took his first steps in local politics in 1977. In 1995, he
entered the Belgian House of Representatives, where he was known as a legal specialist. After
the break-up of his former party, the Volksunie, he founded the Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA)
in 2001 and became the first Chairman. In 2004, he moved to the Government of Flanders.

Considerable expertise and industriousness

Geert is respected by both friends and opponents as a passionate politician and a hard worker
who possesses first-class knowledge of his dossiers. Moreover, he is known to be a man of his
word, invariably straightforward and result-oriented.

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HE Jean-Claude Marcourt



Vice-President and Minister of Economy, Industry, Innovation, and New Technologies of the Wallonia Region Government;

Vice-President and Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Media of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation

Born in Awans, October 16, 1956

Married, two children

Law degree from the University of Liège (1974-1979)

Lawyer at the Bar of Liège since 1979 (on leave since 1992)

Chief of Cabinet of the Walloon Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Guy Mathot (1992-1994)

Chief of Cabinet of the Walloon Minister for Internal Affairs, Public Administration and Budget, Mr Bernard Anselme (1994-1995)

Chief of Cabinet of the Walloon Minister for the Budget, Finance, Employment and Training and Minister of Government of the French Community for the Budget, Finance and Public Service, Jean-Claude Van Cauwenberghe (1995 -1997)

Head of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Minister of Economy and Telecommunications Elio Di Rupo (1998-1999)

Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Employment, Laurette Onkelinx (1999-2003)

Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Laurette Onkelinx (2003-2004)

Minister of Economy and Employment of the Walloon region since July 2004.

Minister of Economy, Employment and Foreign Trade of the Walloon Region since October 7, 2005.

Minister of Economy, Employment, Foreign Trade and Heritage of the Walloon Region since July 20, 2007.

Minister for the Economy, SMEs, Foreign Trade and New Technologies to the Walloon Region. Minister of Higher Education in the French Community (2009-2014).

Minister of Economy, Industry, Innovation and Digital, Vice-President of the Walloon government. Minister of Higher Education, Research and Media to the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, and Deputy Prime Minister of Spain (2014-2019)

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HE Pieter De Crem



Federal Secretary of State for Foreign Trade

Personal Data

Born on 22 July 1962, in Aalter

Married to Caroling Bergez; Father of Constantijn, Alicia and Victoria

Education

Master of Romanic Philology at KU Leuven – Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Dutch-speaking Catholic University of Leuven)

Master of European and international Law at VUB –Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Dutch-speaking Free University of Brussels)

Language proficiency

Pieter De Crem is Dutch native speaker. He speaks and writes fluently in French, English, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. He also has a basic knowledge of Russian.

Professional Expertise

- Secretary of State for Foreign Trade (Oct 2014 -)
- Deputy Prime Minister (March 2013 - Oct 2014)
- Minister of Defence (Dec 2007 - Oct 2014)
- Member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Commander in the Order of Leopold
- Chairman of the Commission for the Interior at the House of Representatives between 10 June 2007 and 21 December 2007
- Chairman of CD&V parliamentary party at the House of Representatives between 31 May 2003 and 21 December 2007
- CD&V Member of Parliament of the constituency for Oost-Vlaanderen (East –Flanders) since 2003, re-elected in 2007
- CVP Member of Parliament of the constituency for Ghent-Eeklo, 1995, re-elected in 1999
- Mayor of Aalter since 1995, re-elected in 2000, 2006 and 2012
- Adviser in “De fabrieken van de Gebroeders De Beukelaar”, 1993-1994
- Assistant in Roularta Media Group , 1987-1989
- Attaché at the private office of Minister of Defence Leo Delcroix, 1992-1993
- Attaché at the private office of Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, 1989-1992
- Chairman of the youth CVP (Christelijke Volkspartij – Christian People’s Party) section Ghent–Eeklo , 1989-1995

MEETING NOTE

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HE Cecile Jodogne



Secretary of State for Foreign Trade and Investment for the Brussels-Capital Region; Minister of the French Community Commission in Charge of Civil Service and Health Policy

Cécile Jodogne (born 1 April 1964) is a Belgian politician. In July 2014, she was appointed State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region, in charge of Foreign Trade, Firefighting and Emergency Medical Assistance. She is also Minister and Member of the Board of the French Community Commission (COCOF), in charge of Civil Service and Health Policy.

Jodogne was born in Louvain (Leuven) and has a degree in geography and economics (UCL). After graduation, she worked in education (university and secondary school). She then specialized in urban studies and mobility. Her political involvement began early. She became a member of the FDF (Fédéralistes Démocrates Francophones) in 1985. In the early 1990s, she became consultant for the Office of the Secretary of State for Monuments and Sites, where she was responsible for monitoring urban plans, various publications on Brussels heritage and cultural and sports policies of the COCOF. She then became Head of Office of the Deputy mayor of Schaerbeek Bernard Clerfayt, before being elected municipal councilor in Schaerbeek. At the next election, in 2006, she was appointed Deputy mayor for Urbanism, Environment, Urban Renewal, Heritage and Tourism. In 2008, she took on, in addition to this mandate, the role of acting mayor, replacing Bernard Clerfayt who was then appointed Federal Secretary of State.

In 2014, Cécile Jodogne became Secretary of State for the Brussels Region and Minister of COCOF. Despite her new role, she continues to closely monitor her municipality since she remains communal advisor in Schaerbeek. Next to her political responsibilities, she is also active in the sector of urbanism and architecture. She presides of RenovaS, an association supporting urban renewal, and the association Autrique House.

Political mandates

- 2000- : Municipal councilor in Schaerbeek
- 2006- : Deputy mayor Schaerbeek
- 2008-2011: acting mayor of Schaerbeek.
- 2009-2014 : Member of the Parliament of the Brussels Capital-Region
- 2014- : State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region, in charge of Foreign Trade and Firefighting and Emergency Medical Assistance. Minister of the French Community Commission (COCOF), in charge of Civil Service and Health Policy

MEETING NOTE

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I. ISSUE NOTE:

PREPARED FOR: Premier Christy Clark	
MEETING EVENT:	<p>Meeting with Ambassador LU Shumin November 12, 2015 / 1:30-2:00pm / Premier's Vancouver Office</p> <p>Ambassador Lu will be accompanied by Mrs. LIU Fei or Mr. FAN Xiaodong, and Ms. WANG Mei (Vice Director, Department of American and Ocean Affairs, Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs).</p>
SIGNIFICANCE:	<p>Ambassador Lu is a former Ambassador of China to Canada (2005-2008). (The current Ambassador to Canada is LUO Zhaohui).</p> <p>Ambassador Lu is currently the Executive President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), which was the official host of the most recent Premier's mission to China. He regrets not being able to meet Premier Clark in person during her recent visit.</p> <p>Ambassador Lu will be attending the celebration of the 45th anniversary of bilateral relations between China and Canada, organized by UBC and the Asia Pacific Foundation.</p>
ICEBREAKER:	In July 2014, Ambassador Lu met with Minister Coleman in Vancouver.
KEY BC OBJECTIVE:	<p>Express appreciation for Ambassador and the CPIFA's role in hosting the Premier's mission to China.</p> <p>Highlight accomplishments and successes of mission to China.</p> <p>BC's priorities in China – increased trade, LNG exports, clean technology exports, agriculture exports, forestry exports, education, tourism, investment, information and technology (ICT) and new/digital media.</p>
KEY MESSAGES:	<p>Mission Highlights - Premier Clark signed a significant memorandum of understanding on climate change and low carbon development in cooperation with Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of the Province of Guangdong.</p> <p>Premier Clark met with Guangdong Party Secretary Hu Chunhua (a member of China's Politburo ^{s.16}</p> <p>Trade - BC encourages the Canadian government to engage China in free trade negotiations. BC fully supports recently concluded Canada-China agreements, including an agreement for cherries, an agreement for blueberries, and agreement that enhances air transport, as well as the entry into force of the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA).</p> <p>LNG - BC has an unprecedented opportunity to create economic growth, both abroad and in the province, through the development of a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry. A number of Chinese companies</p>

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have already invested in proposed LNG facilities in BC:

- PetroChina has twenty percent ownership in the LNG Canada project in Kitimat (along with Shell, KOGAS and Mitsubishi).
- Sinopec has ten percent ownership, and Huadian has a five percent stake in the Pacific NorthWest LNG project in Prince Rupert (along with PETRONAS, JAPEX, Petroleum BRUNEI and Indian Oil Corp).
- CNOOC through its wholly owned subsidiary Nexen is in a joint venture with INPEX and JGC in Aurora LNG project in Prince Rupert.

THEIR INTERESTS:

Diplomatic visit to discuss Premier Clark's mission to China.

II. BIOGRAPHY:

Ambassador LU Shumin

Born in Shaanxi Province of China in February 1950; university graduate; married, with a daughter.

1976-1977	Staff member, Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1977-1979	Staff member, Chinese Embassy in Canada
1979-1985	Staff member, Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions
1985-1989	Third Secretary, Second Secretary, Chinese Embassy in Australia
1989-1994	Various postings of increasing importance, Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Foreign Ministry
1994-1998	Counsellor, Minister Counsellor, Chinese Embassy in USA
1998-2002	Director-general of Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Foreign Ministry
2002-2005	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Indonesia
2005-2008	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Canada
2008-2011.8	Commissioner of Foreign Ministry in the Macao Special Administrative Region
2011.8-	Executive President of the CPIFA

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III. BACKGROUND:

CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CPIFA)

- The purposes of CPIFA is to engage in studies on the world situation, international issues and foreign policies, and to carry out exchanges with statesmen, scholars, etc., with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and the people of all other countries.
- Members of CPIFA Council consist of distinguished figures in China, including international activists, senior diplomats and well-known scholars and specialists in international studies.

BC – CHINA RELATIONS

- **Education** – China is the largest source country for international students studying in BC; approximately 28,700 students studied in BC in 2013-14. There are currently 31 BC Offshore Schools in China.
- **Bond Market** - BC's success to date in the RMB bond market – two-year issue yielded 2.85% and raised about \$559 million Canadian (Nov 2014), with another bond issue expected in 2016 provided there is cooperation from the Chinese authorities.
- **Trade** – China is BC's second-largest trading partners, and accounts for 17.7% of BC's commodity exports (valuing \$6.3 billion). BC leads Canadian provinces in trade with China (\$6.3 billion or a third of Canada's \$18.8 billion exports to China in 2014). Top BC exports to China (2014) include chemical woodpulp (\$1.5 billion), lumber (\$1.4 billion), coal and fuels from coal (\$845.2 million), copper ores (\$712.1 million).
- **Tourism** - Visitor volume from China has increased steadily (53,000 in 2001; 130,000 in 2011; 203,100 in 2013).
- **Sister Province** - This year, BC celebrated its 20th anniversary of sister province relations with China's Guangdong Province. In BC, 19 municipalities have 32 friendship, sister city, or other MOUs with communities in China.

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MEETING OF CANADA'S PREMIERS

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