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TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE TIBETAN PLATEAU: A CAUTIONARY VIEW FOR CANADIAN BUSINESS

All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 1: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
and, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Canada's dwindling political support for Tibet during the past decade occurs as China's unprecedented growth renders it the economic engine of the Asia Pacific region. In 2000, Canada's exports to China totalled \$3.7 billion making it our fourth largest export market. China clearly means big business for Canada.

Despite China's increasing prosperity, poverty continues to plague the majority of Tibetans in Tibet. Tibetan language is losing its viability as Chinese becomes the language of commerce and government in Tibet. Beijing-sponsored incentives coupled with rampant unemployment in rural China encourage the continuing influx of Chinese migrants to Tibetan areas. The result has been further marginalization of Tibetans and the creation of a two-class economic and social system based on race.

Tibet's once pristine natural environment is also threatened by overuse of fragile resources and negligent development undertakings such as deforestation, oil and gas extraction, agricultural diversification and population transfer.

This is the context in which Tibet, under occupation by the People's Republic of China since 1950, becomes party to World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations. The terms of Tibet's membership in the WTO have been negotiated in far-away capitals by government bureaucrats who likely have never visited Tibet, who care nothing for its people or its culture and who believe it to be China's "western treasure house".¹

The terms of China's accession to the WTO are the result of trade-offs and compromises in a world where Canadian ambitions for access to China's financial services sector and Mexico's fear of agricultural dumping can each have an impact on the series of backroom deals which eventually result in Tibet's membership-by-proxy in the world trading system.

¹ Xizang (Chinese word for Tibet) translates to "western treasure house".

The Tibetan people themselves have played no role in this process. Subsumed under the banner of the People's Republic, they have been unable to negotiate special and differential terms for their participation. They have been unable to build alliances, debate positions, develop contingency strategies or to protect vulnerable sectors of their economy. In short they have been excluded from the entire process in a breach of the most fundamental of rights – the right to self-determination, the only right represented in its entirety in both international human rights covenants.

Canadian business will enter this market under scrutiny by the international Tibet support community. Human rights advocates, while not opposed to investment and trade in Tibet, will seek to ensure that government and corporate involvement contributes to the well-being of the Tibetan people and not to China's political and military objectives in the region.

Tibet as “least developed country”

The Right to Development prioritizes popular participation in national development policy and the right of peoples to freely choose their model of development². Moreover it emphasizes that development comprises the realisation of basic human rights. Article 1 of the Right to Development describes development as “an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.”

If Tibetans were able to claim their political rights and if Tibet regained its independence today, it could qualify for the dubious status of “least developed country” (LDC). LDC's are those states named by the United Nations as structurally undeveloped and in need of the highest degree of consideration from the international community in support of development needs. In addition, LDC's are given favourable treatment in the allocation of resources and special concessions in the areas of development finance and in multilateral trade arrangements such as agreements that comprise the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Criteria for LDC status includes a per capita gross domestic product of less than \$900; a low quality of life indicator based on nutrition, health, education and adult literacy; poor economic viability based on instability of agricultural production, export capacity and the size of the economy. Clearly, Tibet like neighbouring countries Afghanistan, Nepal and Burma qualifies as an LDC and thereby for special consideration within the WTO system of trade rules. Indeed, according to Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) documents, Tibet is the poorest and least developed region of China with a human development index of only 0.39³ placing it within the bottom 12 of a list of the world's 49 officially recognized LDCs, between Rwanda and Mali.⁴ Even including Tibet, China's HDI

² *Development as a Human Right*, Deborah Samdup, McGill University, 2001

³ UNDP Human Development Index as quoted in *The Potential for Development Cooperation on the Roof of the World*, Henry Rempel, CIDA, December 1998.

⁴ UNDP Annual Report 2001, www.undp.org

is currently listed as .718⁵, disqualifying it from the preferential treatment that could ease Tibet's entry into the world economy and assist its transition from least developed status.

Despite this disparity and because the occupation of Tibet by China is not recognized by the international community, Tibet's economy will not benefit from the elimination of tariffs and quotas on products it produces for export to industrialised nations. Nor will it be able to provide preferential subsidy levels to its agricultural sector even though these should be permitted to LDCs. Rather, in compliance with the terms of China's WTO deal, Tibet will be forced to enter the world economy as a "medium" level economy – an economy without even the right of participation in the decisions that will affect its interests.

China's Western Development Strategy: Stability through Development⁶

For its part, the Government of China is anxious to open Tibet to foreign investment if only to consolidate its influence and political control in Central Asia. Under the umbrella of a vague program entitled "Western Development Strategy"(WDS), Beijing has opened Tibet and other western areas to foreign investment.

Most recently, the WDS has manifested itself in the creation of a new "special economic zone", designed to provide incentives to foreign investment primarily in the manufacturing sector. On November 5, 2001, the British Broadcasting Service reported that the China Daily had announced the zone's creation in or near Tibet's capital, Lhasa⁷. Such zones, which offer tax breaks and relief from national regulations, are notorious across Asia for labour abuses and environmental degradation.

On June 17, 1999, Chinese President Jiang Zemin first announced his government's new Western Development Strategy describing it as a means to "strengthen national unity, safeguard social stability and consolidate border defense". The move was seen by Tibetans as yet another central policy designed to frame Beijing's political objectives in Tibet within an attractive program of modernization and reform⁸. For China, the strategy seeks to weaken Tibet's independence movement and protect national unity while also providing desperately needed natural resources to fuel eastern industrialisation.

To be successful, the WDS requires an ambitious plan of infrastructure development and foreign investment. Having had little success with international development aid projects (both the European Union and World Bank were forced to cancel proposed projects because of human rights concerns), China has now placed its hopes on private foreign investment facilitated by WTO entry. In October 2000, the Government of China hosted an international trade fair in Hong Kong specifically to encourage foreign investment in Tibet.

⁵ UNDP Annual Report 2001, www.undp.org

⁶ For an excellent review of China's western development strategy, see *China's Great Leap West*, Tibet Information Network, UK, 2000, www.tibetinfo.net. See also Government of Canada descriptor at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/china/business/westerndev-e.asp

⁷ [Tibet gets development zone](#), BBC News, November 5, 2001

⁸ China's western region totals 56 percent of its land area much of which is historical Tibet. It also includes Eastern Turkestan (Xinjiang), Inner Mongolia and other areas.

The fair offered over 100 projects in a variety of sectors. (see attached *Tibet Investment Opportunities*).

Canada has been only too happy to take part in the plan. In May/June 2000, Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, Raymond Chan, became the highest-ranking Canadian official ever to visit Tibet and western China. The stated purpose of his visit was to pursue "opportunities related to China's recently announced Western Development Strategy and to promote Canadian commercial capability in this vast, emerging area".⁹ The Government of Canada has in fact, pledged to invest heavily in western China¹⁰, including Tibet, identifying several sector priorities. Among these are energy (coal, petroleum and natural gas and pipelines), forestry, agriculture, transportation (roads, railways, airports) and environmental services.

Chan's visit to Tibet appears to have been something of a preparatory exercise for Team Canada's mission to China in February 2001. Team Canada also prioritized the WDS as an investment opportunity for Canadian business. To emphasize this opportunity, Prime Minister Chrétien hosted a luncheon in Beijing on February 11, 2001 focused entirely on investment opportunities in China's western regions. The luncheon included several Canadian provincial and territorial leaders as well as senior Canadian and Chinese government officials.¹¹

On the same day, a Letter of Intent was signed by Pierre Pettigrew, Canadian Minister for International Trade and Shi Guangsheng, his Chinese counterpart. The document sets out priorities for Canada-China cooperation in the context of "sustainable development" including western development. Specifically, the letter outlines 8 project areas of which 3 are located in Tibetan regions: strengthening of China's national and provincial transportation plan for the development of roads; capacity building in the area of basic education through distance-learning technologies; development of small and medium business enterprises and promotion of gender-equity in the labour market.¹² Only 1 of the contracts made public immediately following the 2001 Team Canada mission specifically mentions Tibet¹³, however at least 12 implicate Tibet and several others could include Tibet.¹⁴

As follow-up to the Team Canada initiative, Prime Minister Chrétien and trade minister Pierre Pettigrew endorsed two conferences organized in Toronto and Edmonton to promote investment opportunities for Canadian business in western China. Organized by the Canada-China Council for Cooperation and Development, the Edmonton conference in October 2001 boasted that China was set to invest \$100 billion in infrastructure, training and resource development in the western regions. The conference website noted that development of the west is a "pre-condition" for economic maturity in China's industrialized eastern provinces.¹⁵

⁹ Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade (DFAIT), press release May 25, 2000

¹⁰ http://www.tcm-mec.gc.ca/china/western_china_leaders_luncheon-e.asp

¹¹ Team Canada document: list of participants, "Luncheon in Honour of Leaders from Canada and Western China"

¹² Letter of Intent

¹³ \$270,000 contract to the Canadian Red Cross for cataract surgery Gansu, Inner Mongolia and Amdo

¹⁴ For a list of Team Canada contracts see www.pm.gc.ca

¹⁵ See www.canadachinacouncil.com

CIDA and Western Development

In December 1999, immediately following the visit by a Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) delegation to Tibet a month earlier, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) announced its first-ever bilateral aid project in Tibet. The project, negotiated between Canadian and Chinese officials, was designed ostensibly to provide for “basic human needs” on the Tibetan plateau. But observers are quick to point to CIDA’s own Country Development Policy Framework, which prioritizes economic relationships between Chinese and Canadian businesses and service sectors.¹⁶ The project description itself promises to generate investment opportunities for Canadian business in Tibet, thereby creating an advantage on bids for more profitable projects elsewhere in China. (see attached *Tibet Investment Opportunities*).

More worrisome perhaps than the thought of Canadian entrepreneurs trying to turn a profit from fencing off traditional nomadic migratory routes, observers point to the location of the two project sites as an indication of its real value in the eyes of Beijing authorities. Critics of the project suggest that CIDA’s aid package is less about poverty alleviation for Tibetans and more about increasing China’s capacity to provide food and services for construction workers and the new influx of Chinese settlers and military troops who will eventually travel to Tibet using the railway and its accompanying road network¹⁷.

In September 2001, CIDA announced a second ‘western development’ bilateral aid project, this one to provide \$11.8 million for basic education in western China. The project contract was awarded to Calgary-based Agriteam Consulting Ltd., the same consortium awarded the basic human needs project in Tibet. Agriteam will implement the project in collaboration with the Universities of Athabasca, Calgary and Alberta.

Educational services, liberalised under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the WTO, are a priority of Team Canada, China missions. Of 400 Canadian businesses travelling to China with the 2001 Team Canada, more than 100 were educational service providers.¹⁸ Canada’s negotiating position heading into the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the WTO in Qatar, states that “..we are seeking to obtain greater market access from our trading partners.. for trade in services..” adding that Canada will not “..negotiate our..public education.. and we will maintain the flexibility to pursue our cultural policy objectives.”¹⁹ Canada’s sensitivity to the cultural impact of education must be reflected in its trade objectives for western China where cultural preservation is both a political and an ethical concern.

The Right to Education affirms that “parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children” (Article 26, Universal Declaration of Human

¹⁶ “...while some specific poverty reduction interventions may be considered, the principal approach will be one of encouraging economic cooperation”, CIDA’s CDPF for China, www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

¹⁷ For a critique of CIDA’s project in Tibet, see *Determining Basic Human Needs in the Tibet Autonomous Region*, Canada Tibet Committee, 2000, www.tibet.ca

¹⁸ Pierre Pettigrew at a consultation with NGOs, Ottawa, October 16, 2001

¹⁹ *Canadian’s Objectives for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference*, Pierre Pettigrew, www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac

Rights). In Tibet, this means that education should be provided in Tibetan language and that it should promote Tibetan culture and values. In recent years, many thousands of Tibetan parents have crossed the Himalayas on foot so that their children could attend Tibetan-language schools in the refugee camps of Northern India. CIDA's project promises "distance learning" teacher upgrades that are "relevant to women and ethnic-minority teachers", while at the same time proclaiming that "standards, technologies... and models used in Canada will be an important part of the design".²⁰ Initiatives that undermine the ability of the Tibetan people to protect their social and cultural rights including their Right to Education, will come under increasing scrutiny by international aid workers, human rights activists and the Tibetan people themselves.

China's Investment Guidelines violate human rights in Tibet

The Tibetan Government in Exile has issued guidelines for investment and development in Tibet.²¹ *Guidelines for International Development Projects and Sustainable Development in Tibet* set out basic principles for ethical investment by foreign businesses wishing to work inside Tibet. These principles are aimed primarily at the preservation of the Tibetan culture and the promotion of Tibetan leadership in the local economy. Specific recommendations encourage hiring of Tibetans in management positions; provision of loans and credit to Tibetan entrepreneurs; use of Tibetan language for public documentation; training and other forms of technical assistance. The Guidelines also provide sector-specific criteria for ethical investment in a variety of sensitive areas including agriculture, environmental services, healthcare, education and cultural development.

The Government of China has published its own set of *Guidelines for Investment in Tibet*.²² China's guidelines are preoccupied with incentives for investment and contain no protection for local people or their culture. Instead they set out the range and limitations of preferential policies for foreign investment in Tibet. China's guidelines for investors in Tibet include land give-aways that violate a number of human rights principles, most clearly Article 1.2 of both international human rights covenants dealing with the management of natural resources. Among the preferential policies described in China's *Guidelines* are:

- ✓ special provisions for investors in Ngachu (the location of CIDA's Tibet project and a key stop on the Golmud-Lhasa rail line) including the use of local "farmland, forests, grasslands"
- ✓ investors involved in the construction of railways or rail stations, will have first priority to develop land and underground resources along the invested
- ✓ investors willing to take over any of the 511 state-owned enterprises in Tibet will receive a series of preferential policies including tax exemptions, transfer of assets and land-use concessions.
- ✓ High-tech and infrastructure investors will be given "free funds" and will be able to purchase land at 50% of its value with associated fees waived.

²⁰ Maria Minna Announces \$11.8 million Funding from CIDA for Basic Education in Western China, CIDA press release, September 19, 2001

²¹ The Guidelines are available at www.tibet.com

²² *Guidelines for Investment in Tibet*, Xu Minyang, ed., The Peoples Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region, 2000

- ✓ fee waivers for investment above USD 10 million
- ✓ special treatment for long-term or resident visa applications
- ✓ exemption of income and operating taxes for projects such as infrastructure, transportation and energy development

Avoid Harmful Investment in Tibet

Foreign investment in Tibet carries with it the same potential for harm as it does in other poorly developed countries around the world. The concerns of developing countries with regards to implementation of the WTO agreements, the viability of small farming and production of food-security crops, the preservation of bio-diversity, the protection of indigenous knowledge and the public provision of services will all become issues for Tibet in a post-WTO China. Nevertheless, two large-scale projects which are already underway stand out as especially harmful to the Tibetan people and Western corporations should avoid direct or indirect participation in them.

1) The Golmud-Lhasa Railway

A secret report by the United States Central Intelligence Agency, released publicly in 1993, pointed to the lack of a railway as the primary reason why Tibet has not been successfully assimilated into China. That railway is now becoming a reality.

The railway from Golmud in Amdo (Qinghai) province to Lhasa will serve two purposes. First it will facilitate the in-migration of military troops as well as ever-increasing numbers of entrepreneurs and workers expected to take advantage of the various incentives outlined earlier. Second it will provide the means to export Tibet's natural heritage - its resource riches - to the industrialised eastern regions of China.

The Government of China has said that it is "technically and financially capable" of constructing the railway without foreign assistance²³, despite the special needs associated with building rail over permafrost. Chinese Vice-Minister of Railways Sun Yongfu added however, that experts had been sent to Russia and Canada to study permafrost rail construction. In fact, it has not been possible so far to identify any direct Canadian investment in the project. Canada's Export Development Corporation has categorically denied that it has provided any support in terms of insurance or loan guarantees to any Canadian rail company with respect to this project.²⁴

Nevertheless it must be remembered that building and operating the railway in Tibet will require foreign expertise in related project areas such as control systems, communications and signalling systems, mechanized maintenance of tracks, urban planning, engineering and environmental impact assessment services.²⁵ China's railway to Tibet crosses a particularly sensitive environment, an area that includes the source of 2 rivers, the Yangste and the

²³ *China Peoples Daily*, March 7, 2001

²⁴ Email from the EDC to Rights & Democracy, October 18, 2001.

²⁵ *Canada China Trade & Investment*, SinoCann 21 Century Development Research Centre, Shanghai Printing Group, 2001

Yellow. The harsh climate and the lack of urban areas along the proposed route means there is little infrastructure for labourers or other service providers who will be required for the effective running of the railway once it is completed. Solving these problems will require finance and expertise from outside of China – particularly in terms of road and bridge construction, computer control systems and environmental services - all areas prioritized in Canada's objectives for the WDS. Canadian involvement in such projects related to the railway would be viewed by Tibetans and human rights advocates as complicity with China's political and military objectives in Tibet.

While the issue of dual-use technology is un-resolved by those advocating corporate social responsibility, there are already specific cases which provide Tibetan rights advocates with an opportunity to reach their own conclusions. On October 22, 2001 Canadian telecommunications giant, Nortel Networks, announced that it had concluded a deal to provide China Railcom with a nationwide, multiservice ATM backbone network. The contract provides for both equipment and services and will commence by the end of 2001²⁶. While, there is no evidence that Nortel's technology will be used on the Golmud-Lhasa railway, once could assume that it will. Human rights activists have already flagged Nortel's possible complicity in the development of China's surveillance network.²⁷ In the context of Tibet's ongoing struggle for human rights and sensitivity about the Golmud-Lhasa railway, it is possible that Canadian technology could one day contribute to suppression of legitimate dissent in Tibet.

2) Development of Tibet's Oil and Gas Reserves

According to the Canada China Council for Cooperation and Development, "China's west is similar in natural resources to Canada's west. This region accounts for 84% of China's total natural gas reserves. Reserves of coal and iron within this region make up 49% and 33% of the national totals. Canadians have developed excellent technologies to harvest and use natural resources such as, coal mining, oil & gas exploration and production, and pipeline development. These technologies and skills are in high demand in the west of China."

The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), which has offices in Calgary, is a member of the Canada China Business Council, and is already notorious for its partnership with Talisman in Sudan, has begun construction on a controversial gas pipeline originating in Tibet's Tsaidam Basin. The pipeline will take gas 2500 km. from Sebei to Lanzhou. As a state-owned monopoly, the CNPC holds exclusive rights to all of Tibet's oil and gas, in what exiled Tibetans say amounts to appropriation of their natural heritage. An international campaign calling upon BP/Amoco to divest of its share in the plan has led to shareholder actions, demonstrations and considerable media attention.

During Team Canada's 2001 mission to China, the Government of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation with the Government of China. The MOU comprises programmes for technology transfer, research, investment and trade in

²⁶ Nortel Networks, press release, October 22, 2001, www.nortelnetworks.com

²⁷ See *China's Golden Shield: Corporations and the Development of Surveillance Technology in the People's Republic of China*, by Greg Walton, Rights & Democracy, www.ichrdd.ca

energy technologies. The MOU provides a framework for increased Canadian involvement in the controversial Lanzhou pipeline project. It builds on existing Canadian cooperation in the project provided through CIDA.

The CNPC has received an astounding \$29 million dollars in public funds from CIDA for provision of "an ongoing petroleum sector review and assessment aimed at enhancing CIDA's long term planning and programming capability in China"²⁸, among other things. The project has enabled Chinese experts to come to Canada for training in oil and gas technology, much of which will presumably be put to use in the Tsaidam Basin project. CNPC is already engaged in another pipeline construction project in occupied territory - East Turkestan (Xinjiang) bordering Tibet to the northwest. The CNPC has received an additional \$7.55 million dollars in assistance from CIDA specifically for the 4200 km. Xinjiang pipeline.

The Tsaidam Basin has oil reserves of 42 billion tons and natural gas reserves of 1,500 billion cubic meters in 22 deposits. Tsaidam's estimated reserves could supply China's current gas needs for up to seven years.

Conclusion

Canadian businesses have not yet invested to any considerable degree, in Tibet. Indeed, there is little evidence that foreign investment on the plateau would be profitable or secure in the present political context. We therefore find ourselves with an opportunity. Canadian investment could be a source for good in Tibet under certain conditions. These conditions would include:

- ✓ adherence to the Tibetan government-in-exile investment guidelines;
- ✓ sensitivity to the human rights and environmental issues in Tibet;
- ✓ non-participation in projects related to the Golmud-Lhasa railway;
- ✓ non-participation in the Tsaidam oil and gas pipeline;
- ✓ consultation and information sharing with Tibetans living in Canada.

China's WTO entry has opened a fragile economy to the world. The ethics of doing business in occupied or disputed territory have not been a factor in the accession process. Canadian trade officials have nevertheless emphasized in their negotiating position for the Qatar meeting that trade can only be a force for good if it occurs "in an environment of good governance and coherent domestic economic and social policies"²⁹. The Government of Canada must be held accountable for such statements and it must hold Canadian corporations accountable to the same principles when they invest in Tibet and around the world.

²⁸ See www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

²⁹ *Canadian's Objectives for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference*, Pierre Pettigrew, www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac

Tibet Investment Opportunities Linked to China's Western Development Strategy

SECTOR	CIDA (bilateral) (ODA and resultant business opportunities in Tibet)	DFAIT (Team Canada 2001 contracts for western China)	Government of China (Tibet investment offers at October 2000 trade fair, HK)	Sino-Canm Business Council of Canada (priority sectors for WDS)
<i>Roads & Transportation</i>	Presence in the field could lead to requests to bid on transportation projects.	Holland College (PEI) signed joint venture agreement w. Neijiang Railway Mechanical College, Sichuan. Aguasol Enviro Tech Ltd. (Minco Mining and Metals Corp) signed agreement with China Northern Locomotive to supply toilets for 10,000 railway cars. Value: Cdn.\$90 million.	7 projects – roads, sewage, water. Total value: USD 185.1 million	Construction of roads, bridges and tunnels
<i>Energy (oil & gas)</i>	Cnd.\$29 million bilateral ODA for support of China's petroleum sector, providing Canadian expertise and technology. Presence in the field could lead to requests to bid on hydroelectric projects.	Priority sector: Govt to govt. MOU signed 2/22/01 expanded to include western China Sunwing Energy Ltd. (AB) signed MOU w. Petro China to develop natural gas reserves in Sichuan. Value Cdn.\$750 million.	3 projects – solar and hydroelectric. Total value: USD 159.3 million	Construction electric power infrastructure and “new energy” power
<i>Mining</i>		Priority sector:	7 projects – copper, salt, chromium, magnesium. Total value: USD 218.8 million	Exploitation and processing of chromium, salt
<i>Agriculture and Agri-business (includes animal husbandry)</i>	Export of bull semen from jersey or milking shorthorn cattle Export of agricultural equipment Linkages between Canadian and Tibetan colleges and research organizations Electric Fence and supplies	Priority sector: University of Regina (SK) signed contract with Peking University to establish the China-Canada Grassland Ecosystem Research project for sustainable development in western China. Value: Cdn.\$ 1.5 million.	6 projects – animal breeding, crop production. Total value: USD 202 million	

<i>Environmental Services</i>	Export of hydrogeologic expertise (would open opportunity elsewhere in China), drilling services & rigs Export of specialized hardware for water contaminant application	Priority sector:	12 projects - wildlife protection. Total value: USD 27.4 million	
<i>Food Industry</i>			15 projects – meat, water, wine, oil. Total value: USD 26.8 million	Storage and processing of grain, vegetable and meat products
<i>Communications Technology</i>	Opportunities for distance-learning technology	Priority sector:		
<i>Tourism</i>		X.O. Tours Canada Ltd. (B.C.) signed letter of intent w. China Travel Service to develop opportunities throughout China. Value: Cdn.\$7.5 million		Construction and operation of tourist and supporting facilities
<i>Military / defence</i>		Canadian Space Agency signs MOU to cooperate on remote sensing, space-based materials science and microgravity.	1 project - Satellite Communication Network. Value: USD 10.4 million	
<i>Culture</i>		Priority sector: Mount Royal College (AB) signed agreement with Sichuan Conservatory of Music to establish exchange of students and programs.	7 projects - construction of amusement park, folk art, publishing. Total: USD 2.5 million	Manufacture of arts & crafts, packaging
<i>Education</i>	Cnd.\$11 million bilateral ODA for basic education in western China providing Canadian distance learning technologies	Priority sector: Renewal of govt.to govt. MOU on Canada-China Scholar Exchange Capilano College (B.C.) signed MOU to provide educational programmes in north-western China.	12 projects for basic, secondary and technical educational development	
<i>Forestry</i>			5 projects – flower and forest. Total value: USD 207.9 million	Afforestation and introduction of new species of trees

<i>Chemical</i>			4 projects – processing and production. Total value: USD 5.3 million	
<i>Tibetan medicine</i>			17 projects – factory construction, planting, development. Total value: USD 117.8 million	Development and production of patented Tibetan medicine
<i>Health Services</i>		Canadian Red Cross signed an agreement to help develop cataract surgery programs in western China. Value Cnd.\$270,000		

Sources: Government of Canada press releases and websites, Sino-Cann Business Council of Canada publications, Government of China trade promotion publications.