CHAPTER V

ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Prior to the establishment of diplomatic relations, cultural and academic exchanges between China and Canada were few and far between. In the 1950s, many Canadians visited China for various purposes. However, the reverse was not true as hardly any Chinese went to Canada except with the intention of immigration. In the 1960s, some significant informal exchange programmes took place between the two countries which acted as catalysts to the growing awareness about each others social and cultural systems. It was only after 1970 that formal cultural and academic links were established which acted as major elements in the relationship between the two countries.

PRE-RECOGNITION PHASE: 1949-1970

A substantial number of Canadians who visited China in the 1950s were businessmen to the Canton Trade Fair and to other parts of the country in search of trade. The most notable personalities amongst them were James Muir and C. John Small. In 1958, James Muir, Chairman and President of the Royal Bank of Canada and one of the leading Canadian businessmen following a visit to China made forthright statements for closer relations with Beijing. In a report he stated:

Unless the whole scene is a dream, or one's senses of observation and appraisement are less than useless, then we think the vast majority of the people of China have a Government they want, a Government which is improving their lot, a Government in which they have confidence, a Government which stands no chance whatever of being supplanted... All this quite obviously indicates a political problem that will sear the very souls of some Western Powers and which at some stage is going to pose
an overwhelming face-saving problem in more directions than one.\textsuperscript{1}

Moreover, he wanted that the Canadian Government should expand its trade relations with China and objected to the US companies' control on its subsidiaries in Canada. In the 1950s C. John Small, Canada's Trade Commissioner in Hong Kong, worked under C.M. Forsyth-Smith, Canadian Chief Trade Commissioner in Hong Kong, for three years. He too viewed the China problem objectively. During his stay in Hong Kong he often visited Beijing to negotiate with the Chinese officials about the Canadian Government's property in China and discussed trade deals as well as several political matters.\textsuperscript{2} It is pertinent to state here that at a time when there was lack of information gathering mechanism between the two countries, the experiences and views of such important personalities must have influenced the Government officials in formulating their foreign policies.

In the 1950s, with the increasing interest in China many Canadians visited the PRC for non-commercial purposes also. For example, although tourism was not encouraged by either Government and was expensive and difficult to arrange, occasionally students, important personalities and tourists from Canada travelled to China for short visits. Their views on China definitely worked as catalysts in the future course of exchanges between the two countries and maintained the contact.

\textsuperscript{1} Quoted in Globe and Mail, 28 June 1958; "Canadian Banker Writes About China's Progress", SCMP, no.1832, 14 August 1958, pp.50-51.

\textsuperscript{2} Globe and Mail, 7 July 1961.
In 1949, Trudeau had visited China as an itinerant student traveller. Again in the Fall of 1960 he travelled to China as a guest of the Chinese Government and wrote a book, which has been discussed earlier. In September 1956, Elmore Philpott, member of the Canadian House of Commons from the Liberal Party and columnist for the *Vancouver Sun* visited China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and argued for better relations with the PRC. In 1959, Walter L. Gordon an economist from Toronto visited China for some weeks and later in a conference at Geneva suggested that such proposition as "we will not speak to or have any dealings with Russians or Poles or Czechs or Chinese because their countries have Communist governments," should be considered absurd. In August 1959, W.G.C. Howland, President of the United Nations Association in Canada visited China for three weeks. In an interview with Wu Teh-Fang, Vice President and Secretary-General of the Political Science and Law Association in Beijing, Howland could gather the impression that although the Chinese thought Canada as merely a tool of the US, China's attitude towards Canada was generally favourable. In September 1958, the Canadian jurists, Edward B. Jolliffe and Norman A. Endicott were received by the Chinese Premier, Zhou Enlai in Beijing. After returning to Canada, Jolliffe said that, "the West underestimated, the force of nationalism in China - as


4  Quoted in *Globe and Mail*, 15 August 1959.

5  *Globe and Mail*, 16 September 1959.

6  "Premier Chou En-lai Receives Canadian Jurists", *SCMP*, no.1848, 8 September 1958, p.36.
elsewhere." Further stressing China's economic development he said, "the Chinese program, both in its planning and in its workmanship, is proceeding more swiftly and efficiently than anything" of the Soviet Union. It can be rightly said that such visits laid the foundation for future formal academic and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

As far as formal academic exchanges between China and Canada were concerned, they were nearly non-existent in the 1950s and the 1960s, the one exception being a small medical exchange in 1964 between the China Medical College in Beijing and McGill University in Montreal. In February 1964, Professor K.A.C. Elliot, Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Director of the Neurochemical Laboratories at McGill University, along with his wife, visited the China Medical College, Beijing for a month. This exchange programme was arranged "in memory of Dr. Bethune to promote friendship between the medical circles of the two countries." It was sponsored by the Canadian Government and was in line with the official policy of expanding cultural contacts with Beijing. Prior to this, several Canadian scientists and academicians had visited China but this was the first formal exchange programme ever carried out by the two countries.

Moreover, such exchange between the McGill University and the China Medical College was unique in a sense that it was established in a curious way. In 1960, the Peking Opera Company on

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7 Globe and Mail, no.1848, 8 September 1958, p.36.
8 "Canadian Professor Arrives in Peking", SCMP, no.3169, 2 March 1964, p.19; Globe and Mail, 22 February 1964.
a rare visit to Canada\textsuperscript{9}, insisted on performing at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal announcing that it was Mao Zedong's express desire.\textsuperscript{10} It was in this hospital that Bethune was trained and had worked and later served as a surgeon with the Chinese Red Army. It can be rightly said that the love for Bethune by the Chinese and his association with the Royal Victoria Hospital were factors responsible for the establishment of formal medical exchange between the two countries. Such exchange programmes have remained in effect till date.

Even during the Cultural Revolution when Beijing practically ended its relations with many countries, two doctors from Beijing, spent a month at the McGill University in accordance with the agreement between the two institutions on the exchange of professors to deliver lectures at the "Dr. Norman Bethune Professorship" seminar.\textsuperscript{11} One of them was Fang Ji, associate professor at the China Medical College. On 14 November 1966, a six-member Canadian medical delegation, headed by R.C.K. Thomson, President of the Canadian Medical Association arrived in Beijing on a friendly visit at the invitation of the Chinese Medical Association.\textsuperscript{12} Thus such exchanges served as positive examples of "people-to-people" cooperation at a time when there were no official relations between the two countries.

\textsuperscript{9} \textit{Globe and Mail,} 17 August 1965.

\textsuperscript{10} This was learnt from my discussions with some staff members of the hospital in September 1989.


\textsuperscript{12} "Canadian Medical Delegation Arrives in Peking", \textit{SCMP,} no.3824, 21 November 1966, p.37.
Prior to 1970, the establishment of a news bureau of Toronto's Globe and Mail and Beijing's New China News Agency (NCNA) in China and Canada respectively also represented a special cultural link but of a different order, between the two countries. On 13 July 1958, Oakley Dalgleish, the Editor and Publisher of the Globe and Mail met Chen Yi, China's Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, in Beijing.\textsuperscript{13} During the meeting Chen Yi gave assurance to Dalgleish that China would allow a correspondent from his paper to report from Beijing.\textsuperscript{14} The negotiations for the exchange of correspondents continued for fourteen months where the Canadians learnt that, "anyone who had experience in China (pre- or post-revolutionary), anyone with knowledge of the language (unless a Party nominee), was unlikely to be welcome."\textsuperscript{15} Moreover, the agreement to exchange correspondents of the Globe and Mail and the NCNA on terms of strict reciprocity required a thorough investigation into the matter since the presence of any Chinese reporter in Canada and vice-versa raised a host of security and political concerns to both the countries.

Despite such hurdles, the Canadian Government granted an entry visa for a NCNA correspondent, who, however arrived only after five years in 1964. Meanwhile, Frederick Nossal was chosen by the Globe and Mail to be its first correspondent in Beijing. In October 1959 he arrived at Beijing. Unfortunately, he could

\textsuperscript{13} "Chen Yi Receives Canadian Pressman", SCMP, no.1812, 16 July 1958, p.48.


\textsuperscript{15} ibid.
represent his newspaper only till June 1960 as the Chinese refused to renew his visa. In their opinion his reporting had been too critical of the Chinese situation.\textsuperscript{16} On 12 February 1960, Xu Huang, the Deputy Director of the Information Department, in a formal talk with Frederick Nossal in Beijing alleged that he had, "distorted Chinese foreign policy and have [had] written slanders about Chinese internal affairs."\textsuperscript{17}

In such hostile atmosphere, several attempts to replace Nossal failed. Nevertheless, in 1963 the Chinese permitted the reopening of the bureau in Beijing. It is pertinent to state here that from the perspective of the Canadian Government which at that time was considering closer economic relations with the PRC, this was a signal from the Chinese that they wanted more than the simple resumption of a lapsed agreement. On 14 May 1964, Charles Taylor was assigned the job of Globe and Mail's second resident correspondent to China.\textsuperscript{18} He represented his paper in Beijing for eighteen months. He left China shortly before the Red Guards took to the streets. At that time there were roughly thirty foreign correspondents in China, out of which only four were from the West, representing the British, French, West German and Canadian news agencies.\textsuperscript{19} Following this development, on 22 May 1964, Paul

\textsuperscript{16} China News Analysis (Hong Kong), no.347, 4 November 1960, p.7.

\textsuperscript{17} Cited in Nossal, n.14, p.144.

\textsuperscript{18} Globe and Mail, 15 May 1964.

\textsuperscript{19} Charles Taylor, Reporter in Red China (London: 1967), p.5. In this book the author lucidly describes the important aspects of his experience in China, such as the atmosphere of Beijing, the outlook of younger generation, the political techniques of the leaders, etc.
Martin, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, stated at the Commons:

As part of this new development, we would be willing to receive an equivalent number of Chinese correspondents in Canada for the purpose of reporting... on the Canadian scene to their home audience. It is our hope that such reciprocal arrangements could, in the long run, help to reduce the distortions which in the past have proved so dangerous to relations between Peking and other Western countries.  

Finally on 19 July 1964, two correspondents from the NCPA, Bu Zhaomin and his interpreter Xu Jinmei, arrived in Canada and became China's first correspondents in Canada.  

For the time being it appeared that the exchange of journalists would work significantly in favour of normalization of relations between the two countries, but by 1966 this opportunity had passed and China was too absorbed internally with the Cultural Revolution. In October 1966, with the advent of Cultural Revolution Bu Zhaomin and his interpreter were recalled to China. They returned to Canada only in early 1970. Nevertheless, significantly the Globe and Mail's Beijing bureau functioned uninterrupted throughout the 1960s to provide the only North American press representation in China. During the Cultural Revolution David Oancia reported from Beijing, at a time when China was isolated from the outside world. In the 1960s the reports of Charles Taylor, David Oancia, Colin McCullough and Norman Webster were widely read by the Westerners particularly to get a knowledge of

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20 Canada, Commons, Parliamentary Debates, 22 May 1964, p.3479; External Affairs, vol.16, no.6, June 1964, p.261.

life and politics in China. On the other hand, by the late 1960s exacerbated by the Cultural Revolution the ideological gap between the two countries had widened. Moreover, due to the absence of any Chinese reporter in Canada, the PRC failed to publish any favourable report about Canada or about anything on Sino-Canadian relations. It may be stated here that although the exchange of correspondents as a means for improving relations between the countries had limited success, it created a base for future interaction between the two countries.

POST-RECOGNITION PHASE: 1970-1985

Once the diplomatic relations were established in 1970, China and Canada made cultural, educational, scientific and technical exchanges as one of the priorities in their bilateral relations. Undoubtedly, during this period the exchange programmes expanded substantially and still constitute an important element in the relationship. Although in the 1950s and 1960s there were academic and cultural exchanges between the two countries, the first priority for Canada was to end China's isolation and make her a part of the international scenario. In 1969, Mitchell Sharp, Canada's Minister for External Affairs had said that the "relative isolation" of China was not conducive to world peace. He had further stated:

It may not be due to our fault only. The Chinese may be deliberately isolating themselves. But I think we have a responsibility as one of the middle powers to see what we can do to try to break down this isolation. 22

22 Quoted in Globe and Mail, 2 September 1969.
Thus diplomatic relationship was established in 1970 and then the exchange programmes were used as a means for interaction between the socialist and capitalist systems through the exposures to each other's values and cultures. It was widely thought that the more the number of people and ideas flowed across the Pacific, the better it would be.

Cultural Exchanges

In the early 1970s, before any substantive talks regarding cultural and academic exchanges were held, Ottawa had received many proposals for cultural exchange from many individuals and organizations of Canada, including the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Gallery and the Royal Ontario Museum. The actual foundation for a potentially wide range of Government sponsored exchange programmes was laid by Mitchell Sharp, the Minister for External Affairs, during his official visit to Beijing in 1972. On 20 August 1972, in a statement to the press in Beijing, he said:

I have discussed with the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China [Qi Pengfei] the encouragement of cultural, educational, scientific and technological exchanges between our countries. We think such exchanges play an important role in developing and strengthening the relations between our countries and peoples.23

Sharp extended an invitation to the Chinese to send "their magnificent exhibition of recent archaeological finds" to Canada and announced that "the Canadian government would be prepared to

23 Department of External Affairs, Canada, "Exchanges with China", Communique no. 64, 20 August 1972, p.2.
send to China an exhibition of Eskimo prints". 24 The two sides also agreed to begin exchanges in science and technology and medicine at the earliest possible opportunity. Moreover, with respect to education, Sharp noted:

Minister Chi [Qi] and I touched on the subject of student and teacher exchanges. We agreed such exchanges were mutually beneficial and desirable. Officials on both sides will be examining the development of a program in the field of education to be instituted at an early mutually convenient time. 25

In the two years following Sharp's visit to China, the PRC and Canada implemented agreements and strengthened the understandings in all these areas. During the Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre E. Trudeau's visit to China in 1973, the two Governments agreed "on future exchanges in a wide variety of fields, including medicine, science, culture, and sports". On his arrival in Beijing, the Renmin Ribao in its editorial commented on the "profound friendship" that was developing between the peoples of the two countries. 27 Moreover, the Chinese Premier, Zhou Enlai in his banquet speech in honour of Trudeau, said:

In China, whenever people talk about Canadian friends, they think of Dr. Norman Bethune, who gave his precious life to help the Chinese people in their revolution. Chairman Mao's very well-known article "In Memory of Dr. Norman Bethune" gave full expression to the Chinese people's esteem and condolences for Dr. Bethune and has

24 ibid.
25 Ibid.

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become a historic classic inscribing the profound friendship of the two peoples. 28

Interestingly, Bethune became the symbol of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, to whom both sides started giving tremendous importance. The Canadian doctor who sacrificed his life for the cause of the Chinese Revolution became one of the best known non-Chinese personalities in Chinese history. Whenever a Canadian delegation visited China its presence was blessed with the spirit of Bethune. Many a time delegations were even taken long distances at considerable expense to Bethune's memorial in Shaijiazhuang, not far from where he died in 1939. The Bethune legend was nurtured even during the ideological excesses of the Cultural Revolution. He was "glorified in childrens' books, immortalized in Mao's own words as an example of the selflessness... and therefore a part of the daily ideological creed." 29

Norman Bethune was institutionalized in the Sino-Canadian relationship of the 1970s. On 17 August 1972, Mitchell Sharp announced in Beijing that the Canadian Government had declared Bethune to be "of national historic significance because of his exceptional humanitarian achievements" and his birthplace in Gravenhurst would soon become a national monument. 30 On 28


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January 1974, one of the colleges of York University in Toronto, which specializes in Third World Studies was officially named as Bethune College to commemorate the life of Bethune. In his opening speech, Ioan Davies, a senior academician of the College said that, the "Canadians were proud that Dr. Bethune was able to play a part in the glorious Chinese Revolution and they were doubly proud that the connection would help further the relations between the peoples of the two countries".31 No Canadian Communist had been honoured to such an extent at home before. During the thirty three years since his death, Bethune had never received any official recognition for medical services to the Chinese Communists. Until then, Norman Bethune had "enjoyed relatively little renown in Canada, with many of his fellow countrymen having never heard of his name which is more revered in China than any other foreigner except Karl Marx."32

In the mid-1970s, Gravenhurst, the birthplace of Bethune, which is eighty miles north of Toronto became the Canadian analog to Shijiazhuang. On 30 August 1976, Bethune was formally enshrined as a Canadian hero when the house in which he was born in 1890 was dedicated as a historical museum and was formally opened to the public by the visiting Chinese Vice Minister for Public Health, Zhang Zhijiang. He told the audience that "Canadian friends visiting China invariably went to Shihchiachuang to pay

31 "A Canadian College Named After Dr. Norman Bethune", SCMP, no.5550, 11 February 1974, p.32.
32 Globe and Mail, 21 August 1972.
homage at Dr. Bethune's tomb and visit the Norman Bethune Memorial Hall". 33 From the Canadian side, Otto Lang, the Minister of Transport, said:

Following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and China in 1970, Dr. Bethune's life and achievements have come more and more to the attention of Canadians. The official recognition that the Government of Canada is giving to Dr. Bethune is both a tribute to his unique personal accomplishments, and an expression of the great importance we attach to the steady development of relations between our two countries and two peoples. 34

While many Canadians were taken aback at this national canonization of a Canadian Communist, Bethune's former house in Gravenhurst attracted thousands of Chinese visitors in the ensuing years.

In 1979, China and Canada celebrated the 40th death anniversary of Bethune with the visit to China of a high level Canadian parliamentary delegation led by James Jerome, the speaker of the Commons and Renaude Lapointe, the speaker of the Senate. While receiving a coloured photo of Bethune from Renaude on behalf of the delegation, Hua Guofeng said, "November this year marks the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Bethune in China. We Chinese people cherish the memory of Dr. Bethune". 35 The very next day the

33 "Norman Bethune Memorial House Opened in Canada", Summary of World Broadcast, Part 3, FE/5301/41/1, 2 September 1976.

34 "Greeting the Opening of Bethune Memorial House", Peking Review, vol.19, no.37, 8 September 1976, p.29.

delegation as a goodwill gesture to the Chinese visited Norman Bethune International Peace Hospital,36 of the Peoples' Liberation Army in Shijiazhuang, where Lapointe said that they were deeply impressed with the visit and that they would tell the Canadian people about Dr. Bethune's work in China and the Chinese people's respect for him.37

By 1980, a large number of new books and motion pictures on Bethune had appeared in both the countries publicizing the Bethune legend, particularly in Canada, where the Canadians were slow to embrace their new Communist hero. One of the most significant developments was that on 26 March 1980, after three years of prolonged negotiations, the Canadian film producer John Kemney signed a Can. $20 million deal with the Chinese officials to produce a full length motion picture on the life of Bethune. It was the first North American movie, a major portion of which was shot in China. The Globe and Mail rightly stated:

Chinese officials have long expressed keen regret that the heroic doctor is not as honoured in his own land as he is here. The chance to redress that balance is clearly one of the main reasons the project was chosen as China's first major joint cinema venture.38

In the words of an eminent Canadian Sinologist, Paul Evans, "for the Canadians Bethune remains a Chinese graft that does not quite catch. The only people who go to Gravenhurst are official

36 The hospital was named in 1940 in memory of Norman Bethune.
Chinese delegations and Canadian fellow travellers. Even so, it was a hell of an investment". Nevertheless, Bethune became the perfect cultural link between China and Canada. It was due to him that the Canadian Government enjoyed as close a relationship as was possible for a Western country to have with China. His Chinese name, Bai Qin En, was the byword of Sino-Canadian relations. The name of Bethune became "a magic touchstone in the slow warming of relations with the Chinese. When the talks get difficult or the other side turns silent, a smooth reference to China's Canadian hero has been known to thaw the ice".

With Norman Bethune at their sides, China and Canada rapidly expanded their links in culture, education, science and technology. Nearly three hundred official exchanges took place between the two countries over a period of ten years, from 1972 to 1982, involving thousands of individuals at the cost of millions of dollars to both the Governments. For the first time, on 15 July 1972, a Chinese cultural delegation for the "painting, arts and crafts exhibition", led by Shao Yu reached Montreal to participate in "The Man and His World" - an international cultural exhibition. It was held in various parts of Canada for more than two months. Speaking at a press conference Shao Yu said, "this

39 Interview with Prof. Paul Evans, York University in September, 1989.

40 Globe and Mail, n.30.

41 Based on the discussion with Gordon Houldon, Deputy Director (East Asia), Department of External Affairs, Canada in September 1989.

42 "Chinese Delegation for Painting, Arts and Crafts Exhibition Arrives in Canada", SCMP, no.5184, 28 July 1972, p.188.
exhibition provided us with an opportunity to learn from the people here and to exchange with our friends, experience in literature and art".43 Undoubtedly, such an exhibition made positive contributions in promoting further cultural and academic exchanges and consequently helped in giving an impetus to the development of bilateral relations. Later, Shao Yu had rightly said, "The exhibition in Montreal has long closed down, but still ringing in our ears are the friendly voices bidding us farewell: Good bye China! See you again next year!".44

On 7 August 1974, an exhibition of Chinese archaeological treasures was formally opened for three months at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Hundreds of Canadians availed the opportunity to view this spectacular exhibition. At the inaugural function, Madame Leger, wife of the Canadian Governor-General said, "we welcome the exhibition for its artistic value and for its historical significance. We welcome it as an excellent means to promote further mutual knowledge and understanding of both Chinese and Canadian people".45 The Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Wenjin said, "this exhibition would make contributions towards


45 "Chinese Exhibition of Archaeological Exhibition Opened in Canada", SCMP, no.5678, 19 August 1974, p.27. For more details see, Michael Ridley, "China's Treasures Come to Canada", Canadian Geographical Journal (Ottawa), vol.88, June 1974, pp.4-11.
furthering the good relationship between the two countries".  

With the success of the Chinese exhibition in Canada, the latter followed suit. On 16 April 1976, Canada held a major landscape painting exhibition at the China Art Gallery in Beijing under the auspices of the Chinese Peoples' Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. All the sixynine oil paintings by the fortyfour leading Canadian artists on display were from the collection of the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. In these paintings, artists from different regions of Canada showed "the love and pride that all Canadians felt for their nation". The most significant aspect of this cultural exchange programme was that nearly 100,000 Chinese attended this first exhibition of "bourgeois art" in almost two decades.

A year later on 1 May 1977, the Shanghai Dance Drama Troupe arrived in Vancouver. For a month it performed throughout Canada, particularly in Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto. This was reciprocated by Canada's 'Toronto Symphony' in 1978, when it performed spectacular shows in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. It was represented by 105 musicians who carried tonnes of sophisticated equipments to China. Appreciating the performance, the Peking Review noted that "these are among many happy memories that members of the Canadian Toronto Symphony have of their recent

46 ibid.

47 "Canadian Landscape Painting Exhibition Opens in Peking", SCMP, no.5841, 29 April 1976, p.75.


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China tour. Both friendship and art have been enriched through this visit.\textsuperscript{49} Moreover, the day the Symphony made its debut in Beijing, was the very day Bethune had reached in China forty years earlier.

In 1982, China held an exhibition depicting its traditional science and technology at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto. The exhibition which was sponsored by both the countries attracted more than one million visitors from over forty countries. The exhibition named as "China - 7,000 years of Discovery" was opened to the public for six months. The significance of such a cultural show was that it was "the largest scientific and cultural exhibition ever held in Canada and it spread the knowledge of the Chinese civilisation which are unfamiliar with Canadian people."\textsuperscript{50}

Many other less spectacular cultural events, which had also played key roles in Sino-Canadian cultural exchanges, took place during this period. In 1979, the "Peking Opera" troupe performed to packed houses in different places of Canada as did the Wuhan Circus in 1982. Some other Chinese cultural programmes in Canada included acrobatic shows and an exhibition of Chinese peasant paintings. On the Canadian side, a tour by the Brass Quintet, workshops arranged by noted Canadian dancers such as Cilia Franca, Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn, appearances by opera star Maureen Forrester and pianist Louis Lortis and the last but not the least

\textsuperscript{49} "Toronto Symphony", Peking Review, vol.21, no.12, 24 March 1978, p.44.

\textsuperscript{50} This was the remark of Dr. Tuzo Wilson of the Ontario Science Centre, in an interview with Xinhua. Xinhua News Agency News Bulletin, no.12345, 2 November 1982, p.5.
Canadian puppetry troupe's debut in October 1983 in Beijing, could also help in successfully exposing Western, particularly Canadian culture in China.

**Academic Exchanges**

The official Sino-Canadian academic exchanges, an important aspect of bilateral relations, soon began to develop after the diplomatic relations were established in 1970. During the fifteen years since 1970, the academic exchange activity evolved through three distinct phases - beginning in 1973, in 1979 and in 1983. Each of the three phases was characterized by new initiatives taken by the two Governments.

Prior to 1970, many Canadian institutions, notably the University of Toronto and the McGill University had been anxious to establish formal student exchange programmes with the PRC. Their keenness was conveyed to the Chinese by Mitchell Sharp during his official visit to the PRC in August 1972. Although a communique was issued at the close of Sharp's talks with Zhou Enlai and Qi Pengfei stating the intention of both sides to exchange students, which has been discussed earlier, the details of the exchange were finalized through an exchange of diplomatic notes in late July 1973. Such a breakthrough in the Sino-Canadian relations was achieved after prolonged negotiations between the two countries for over a year. In November 1973, the first batch of twenty Canadian students comprising ten women and ten men reached Beijing to commence their studies under the terms of this
new exchange programme. Under the terms and conditions of the exchange programme, each country was responsible for the entire financing of its own students. Such arrangement was unique, "as other countries had cost-sharing arrangements or had assumed reciprocal responsibility for foreign students in residence".

The Canadian students went to China to study Chinese Language and Literature as well as to pursue studies in other fields such as Arts, Humanities and Sciences. The Chinese students went to Canada to study English and French language and conduct research in Natural and Applied Sciences. Such exchange programmes, starting in 1973, quickly became the most regular vehicle for academic contact between the two countries.

In 1974, "Canada-China Professorial Exchange" programme was initiated by the two countries, but it was suspended soon thereafter. It was resumed only in 1977 primarily to provide English and French language teachers from Canada to China. There were also other academic contacts during this period but they were informal and irregular. In 1975, China started despatching a number of "special students" to Canada for non-degree language study. From the Canadian side a small number of academicians and students having basic Chinese language background managed to visit China privately.

52 ibid, p.94.
It appears that apart from the formal exchange programmes, academic exchanges took place primarily through irregular exchange of delegations, particularly in the subjects related to education, medicine and science. Perhaps the most significant of such exchanges were the two weeks visit to China by the Canadian delegation led by N.T. Nemetz, Chancellor of the University of British Columbia, in July 1979.54 The delegation, at the invitation of China's Ministry of Education, visited the existing educational facilities in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. It was followed by a sixteen days reciprocal visit to Canada by a Chinese higher education delegation in October 1975.55 The delegation, led by Huang Hsin-pai, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Peking University, consisting of members visited Canadian higher education facilities at ten famous Universities of Canada. Apart from such visits, there were some study tours to China arranged by Canadian Universities and by the Canada-China Society which facilitated tourist travel to China of a limited number of Canadian professors and students. It may be said here that few opportunities were available for research or formal degree study, during the period in both the countries.

The year 1979 was significant in Sino-Canadian relations. The Chinese pragmatist leadership under Deng Xiaoping declared China's "open door policy" by placing greater emphasis on


upgrading skills in the areas of science and technology and in other important fields with help from developed capitalist Western countries. In such conducive environment, in June 1979 the shape of Sino-Canadian academic relations changed dramatically with the conclusion of a broader agreement on educational exchanges and cooperation. In October 1978, a Chinese delegation for education led by Yung Wen-tao, Vice-Minister for Education, arrived in Canada at the invitation of the Canadian Government. During the visit, the delegation visited a number of Canadian Universities and research institutions. On 25 October 1978, the delegation had discussions with the officials of the Department of External Affairs regarding the feasibility of greater educational exchanges between the two countries.\(^{56}\) On 29 May 1979, at the invitation of China's Ministry for Education a Canadian delegation led by A.R. Menzies, Canadian Ambassador to China, arrived in Beijing and later held talks with Gao Yi, Chinese Vice-Minister for Education, regarding educational exchange programmes.\(^{57}\)

It was during this visit that an agreement was concluded with the Chinese Ministry for Education for placing "Chinese scholars" in Canadian Universities.\(^{58}\) The Canadian Ministry for Education,  

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58 Under the terms of this arrangement, "Scholar" was defined as a person pursuing research or studies for purposes other than attaining a University degree.
in cooperation with provincial educational authorities and other federal and provincial agencies was empowered with the placement and language evaluation of the scholars in consultations with the academic community. In addition to this "special scholar programme", it was agreed that the Chinese Government could send undergraduates and post-graduates to Canadian Universities through normal channels. The Chinese Government on its part agreed to facilitate access to the Chinese institutions of higher learning for Canadian scholars and students. Both sides agreed to encourage closer ties between their respective Universities and colleges.59

The outcome of such agreements was that since 1979 there was a dramatic increase in the volume of Sino-Canadian academic exchange activities. During the period 1970 to 1978, around four hundred Chinese academicians visited Canada.60 These official exchange programmes were generally restricted to small groups of scholars and Chinese-sponsored language students pursuing non-degree courses at a few Canadian Universities. Moreover, a few Chinese professors and delegations also toured Canada under the exchange programmes to familiarize themselves with the availability of infrastructural facilities for study of specialized subjects, such as science and technology; medicine, engineering and agriculture. During this period twenty official

59 Canada, Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Visit to Asia (Ottawa, n.d.), p.39.

60 Martin Singer, Canadian Academic Relations with the People's Republic of China since 1970 (Ottawa, 1986), vol.1, p.4.
Chinese delegations had visited Canada.\textsuperscript{61} Beginning in 1979, there had been a significant increase not only in the number of Chinese academicians visiting Canada but also in their distribution across Canada and their fields of study. By 1983, at least 2500 Chinese academicians had visited Canada\textsuperscript{62} and between 1979 and 1983, eighty Chinese academic delegations had been to Canada.\textsuperscript{63} Since 1979, the Chinese students had been to Canada for training and research, mainly in professional subjects. By 1985, almost all the Universities of Canada had received students from China.

Since 1979, many professors and academic delegations from several Canadian Universities and research institutions visited China to deliver lectures on specialized subjects, particularly in engineering, medicine and the sciences. In a few cases, smaller numbers of academicians visited China to conduct research or to participate in scholarly conferences. Between 1970 and 1978, fifty Canadian academic delegations had visited China and from 1979 to 1983 sixty-seven academic delegations had been to China.\textsuperscript{64} It is pertinent to state here that, since 1979 their visits were fewer and generally shorter than those of their Chinese counterparts who travelled to Canada during the same period.

\textsuperscript{61} Calculated from, Martin Singer, \textit{Canadian Academic Relations with the People's Republic of China Since 1970} (Ottawa, 1986), vol.2, pp.292-03.

\textsuperscript{62} Singer, n.59, p.8.

\textsuperscript{63} Based on Singer, n.60, pp.295-03.

\textsuperscript{64} Based on calculations from Singer, ibid, pp.360-72.
Moreover, between 1970 and 1983 as many as four hundred Canadian University students visited China for academic purposes. This included nearly two hundred Canadian students who participated in the official Canada-China Student Exchange Programme and several smaller student exchange programmes. Such exchange programmes facilitated their study of both the Chinese language and specialised subjects at institutions all over China.

On the other hand, by 1985, in addition to the 'Special Scholars Programmes', hundreds of Chinese undergraduate and postgraduate students were enrolled in various degree programmes throughout Canada. Some were financially supported by the Chinese Government and some others were privately sponsored. A substantial number participated through University-to-University arrangements, whereby each side paid the fees and living expenses of the visiting student or teacher. It may be stated here that the Chinese Government encouraged "its colleges to consult directly with their counterparts in other countries on exchange of students, teachers, papers and information and on cooperative research..." As a result of this, new provincial educational programmes, such as the Ontario-Jiangsu Educational linkage provided further access to higher educational institutions in both the countries.

However, in the early 1980s, the financial constraint was the major stumbling block to the Sino-Canadian academic exchanges. A

65 Singer, n.59, p.40.

number of Canadian institutions negotiated exchange agreements with the Chinese Universities subject to the availability of appropriate financing. However, the initiative taken by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) solved many of these financial problems and had an enormous impact on the growth of educational ties between the two countries since 1983. By providing funds and encouraging linkages among higher educational institutions, the CIDA had drawn Canadian higher educational institutions into a major commitment to exchange scholars with China.

The China-CIDA links can be traced back to August 1981, when the President of CIDA, visited China as member of a delegation headed by Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs. During the delegation's meetings with the Chinese officials, MacGuigan said, "we have come today with an objective to reaffirm our friendship and further develop the relations of co-operation between the two countries".67 Later the Chinese Premier, Zhao Ziyang, "praised the relations of friendship and cooperation between China and Canada and expressed the hope that China and Canada could find a way to cooperate in the fields of developing energy resources and in communications and technology transformation".68 Favouring China's desires, MacGuigan expressed


Canada's willingness to cooperate in these fields. MacGuigan's remark was followed up by a four-member CIDA familiarization delegation's visit to China in late 1981. After a period of consultation with other federal and provincial Governmental agencies in January 1982 and with Canadian Universities in April 1982, a larger CIDA programming mission visited China the same month at the invitation of China's Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade (MFERT). During this visit it was agreed that the cooperation between CIDA and MFERT would focus on four major areas of development - agriculture, energy, forestry and human resources development, with emphasis on technical cooperation rather than capital assistance. Under such understanding the CIDA decided in 1982, "to assist eight Chinese Universities in training senior management personnel", and by 1983, "Nankai University in cooperation with three Canadian Universities is [was] running a post-graduate course in Business Administration to train more senior managers".

Moreover, in 1983, the visit to Canada by a delegation from the MFERT and the exchange of a significant number of institutional delegations from both the countries were critical to

69 ibid.
72 ibid.
this process of cooperation. On 5 October 1983, a formal "General Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China on Development Cooperation" was concluded.\textsuperscript{73} This agreement, in addition to stipulating the legal obligations of both parties, designated CIDA and MFERT as the "coordinating authorities" for a range of cooperative development activities which included sending Canadian scholars to China; granting scholarships to Chinese citizens for advanced study and technical training; providing equipment and materials necessary for the execution of development projects in China; undertaking studies and projects intended to contribute to the social and economic development of China; and fostering appropriate relationships between the individuals and institutions of the two countries.

It may be stated here that during the period 1970-1985 particularly since 1979, both the countries had opened up avenues for research and teaching. It is true that the flow of academic exchanges had been one-directional. A large number of Chinese came to Canada, but a comparatively smaller number of Canadians, almost exclusively teachers, visited China. Moreover, it is apparent that Canada being a developed country, the Chinese in Canada by 1985 had far better opportunities than the Canadians teaching or studying in China. In the social sciences and humanities, particularly, the Canadians found the Chinese facilities inaccessible or underdeveloped. Nevertheless, in the

\textsuperscript{73} "Signs Economic, Technological Agreement", FBIS, Daily Report, China (Washington), vol.1, no.195, 6 October 1983, p.iji.
1980s, the situation underwent a change as China continued to open her doors to foreigners. The decade of increased exposure to each others higher education facilities had enabled both the countries to produce a new group of experts, many of them are still working as teachers, interpreters, Government officials or engaged in trade in their respective countries.

In the 1970s and early 1980s along with academic cooperation, exchanges in science and technology expanded rapidly. It covered such areas as agriculture, atomic energy, fisheries, forestry, metallurgy, petroleum prospecting, geology, radioengineering, oceanography, seismology and veterinary medicine, to mention only a few. Here too, the terms of exchange favoured China. While at the beginning, both sides stuck to strict reciprocity in science and technology exchanges, gradually it became clear that Canada had little to learn from China in this area. Setting aside the norms of strict reciprocity in science and technology the Canadian Government recognized the trade-potentiality of such exchanges.

In the process, exchanges in science and technology became one of the means used by Canada in its attempts to enter the China market. It was also seen as an equalizer, something that Canada could give to China as partial compensation for the large trade surplus in Canada's favour. With the CIDA's initiative of 1981, this concept was further strengthened over the years. In 1985, Renmin Ribao in its editorial praising the Chinese President, Li

74 Based on discussions in August-October 1989 with many teachers and students of University of Toronto, York University, McGill University, and Concordia University, who had visited China in the past.
Xiannian's visit to Canada, noted that "strengthening commercial, economic and technical cooperation is an important aspect of the Sino-Canadian relationship... Canada has become one of China's important trading partners. The signing of agreements... on the establishment of a China-Canada agricultural joint commission will help [to] consolidate the Sino-Canadian trade and economic and technical cooperation". It can be rightly said that what began as a series of cultural exchanges in 1973, developed into an essential part of Canada's China trade strategy a decade later.

By the early 1980s, the range and volume of cultural and academic exchanges related to the scientific and technological aspects were impressive. Both, China and Canada were now more aware of each other's culture, technology and values which contributed to closer interaction between the two countries. A new generation of Canadians received first hand knowledge about China and the Chinese language. Moreover, the Canadian presence was keenly felt by the Chinese. For the Chinese, the exchanges gave valuable exposure to the West, particularly to its technology, educational system and culture. In January 1984, the Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang during his visit to Canada told the reporters that "China welcomes Western technologies which it needs and allows the introduction of Western culture, education and art". However, he further added, "we will not introduce things from the West which the Chinese people don't like".
