



News Release/ Communiqué

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EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT: PREMIER PREPARES FOR ONTARIO TRADE MISSION TO CHINA

Trip To Include Stops In Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing And Hong Kong

QUEEN'S PARK — Premier Dalton McGuinty says he will stress the themes of education, innovation and investment when he leads an Ontario trade mission to China next week.

"Ontario is open for business and Ontario is open to China," the Premier said.

"Our people are very interested in strengthening our friendship with the Chinese people, and our business ties with one of the world's most rapidly growing economies," the Premier said today.

"We'll be telling the Chinese about Ontario's highly skilled and well-educated workforce, our drive to discover new ideas and develop them into innovative products, and how Ontario is a gateway to the North American market and, because of our diverse population, a passageway to the world."

McGuinty made the comments as he met this afternoon with members of Ontario's Chinese-language media in anticipation of the trip, which will include stops in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Hong Kong.

The Premier is also scheduled to meet this evening with members of the Ontario delegation, which includes more than 110 business people representing more than 80 companies, as well as leading members of the province's education and health care sectors.

He also announced that he has agreed to serve as honorary chair of SMILE China, a Canadian charity organization led by renowned facial plastic surgeon Dr. Joseph K. Wong. SMILE China provides specialized surgical, medical and health care services to children affected with facial deformities in poor, developing areas in China.

“The SMILE China project offers children hope of a better life and equips them with opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives,” said Dr. Wong. “I’m pleased that Premier McGuinty is personally helping to build a bridge to a more caring world for these children.”

“Ontario is in a unique position to use its advantages of a diverse, well-educated and highly skilled workforce to compete in the global economy,” said Minister of Economic Development and Trade Joseph Cordiano. “This trade mission is a great opportunity for us to tell Ontario’s story around the world, which will translate into jobs and investment here at home.”

“We are very proud of our friendship with China, our trade with China and our business with China,” said MPP Tony Wong. “This trip will allow us to strengthen that friendship, increase that trade and become even stronger partners.”

The Ontario delegation departs for Beijing on Friday, November 4 and returns on Tuesday, November 15.

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For more information:
Premier’s Media Office
416-314-8975

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