

Canada-China Friendship Society

Mayor Jim Watson

April 15, 2014



Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you very much to the Canada – China Friendship Society's Ottawa Chapter for inviting me here this evening.

I would like to speak a little tonight about my trip to Beijing last fall, my impressions of China and the opportunity it presents for Ottawa, and then open things up for any questions you may have.

It is very fitting that I am here to talk about our trip to Beijing because before I came here tonight I was at the Westin Hotel welcoming a delegation from Beijing's municipal government to Ottawa!



Team Ottawa China Mission 2013
2013渥太华访华代表团

It was an honour for me to lead our city's delegation to Beijing and Shanghai in October of last year.

What was especially great for me was being able to once again visit Ottawa's sister city: Beijing.

Our sister city arrangement has a special meaning to me because it was actually during my first term as Mayor 15 years ago, that I actually signed that agreement.

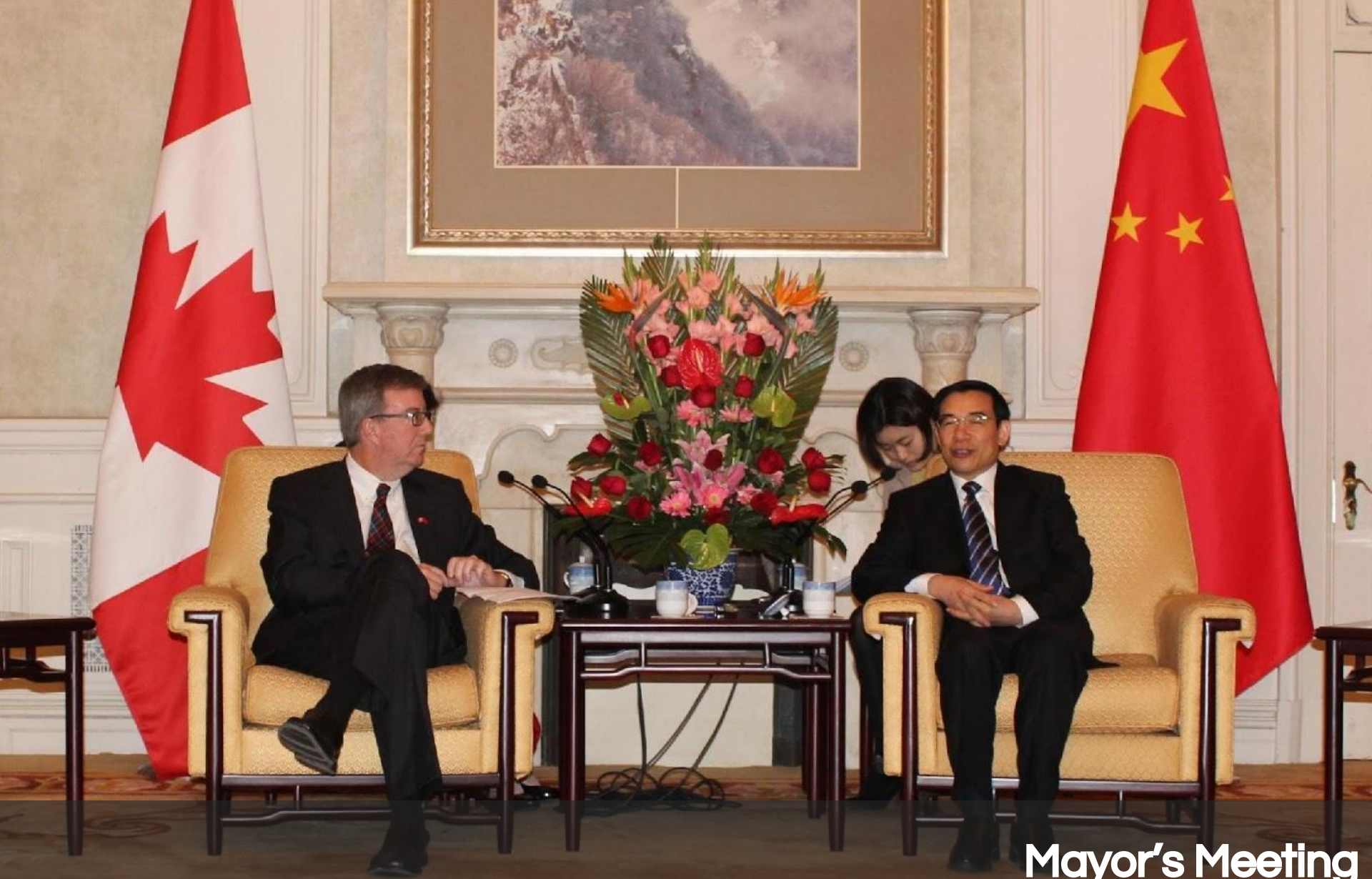
I have to say, it really is amazing to visit China today compared to when I went to Beijing for the signing of that agreement.



I thought that the city was undergoing transformational change when I saw it in 1999.

Well, it turns out that was just the beginning.

One thing I sort of selfishly like about China is that the title of Mayor has a lot more weight there.



Mayor's Meeting
市长会晤

It's great here in Ottawa, but the Mayor of Beijing is one of the highest ranking people in the country...

And here in Ottawa, I can't even cancel a parking ticket.

So it's fun to be treated with such pomp and circumstance when I am in China.

But in all seriousness, seeing Beijing today is to see a world-class city that is growing at an incredible rate but whose people, and whose municipal government, remain incredibly kind and hospitable.



Promoting Ottawa in the areas of innovation, tourism, education and investment
在创新、旅游、教育和投资领域推广渥太华

The goals for our delegation were threefold:

1. To encourage Chinese businesses to locate offices and invest in Ottawa.
2. To encourage individuals from China to come to Ottawa to receive exceptional education.
3. To inspire more Chinese tourists to our beautiful city.

I'm happy to say that we made progress on all of these fronts and that the relationship between our two cities is stronger than ever.

Specifically, there were a number of highlights from the trip that will pay dividends for our city.



**Signing the “Exchange and Cooperation Agreement”
between Beijing and Ottawa**
北京与渥太华共同签署“交换合作协议”

Chief among these highlights was the signing of the “Exchange and Cooperation Agreement” between Ottawa and Beijing.

This wide-ranging agreement includes important advancements for both cities such as:

- The establishment of a platform for a business and government tourism think tank to jointly develop the business tourism markets.
- Joint support for Ottawa’s application to host the 2017 World Tourism Cities Federation and Beijing to host the Fragrant Hills Tourism Summit
- Ottawa and Beijing will also participate in various exchange programs for artists, cultural professionals, public servants, and elementary and secondary school students and teachers.

Much of our delegation to China was made up of businessmen and women looking to expand into the Chinese market or bring Chinese business to Ottawa.



Signing the “ZDG – Invest Ottawa Incubation Services Agreement”
签署“中关村发展集团 – 渥太华投资署孵化服务协议”

This is why signing the ZDG – Invest Ottawa Incubation Services Agreement was important.

ZDG has set up the Ottawa International Incubation Centre at Invest Ottawa and this agreement formalizes the relationship between the two organizations.

This is great news for Ottawa's entrepreneurs as more capital is now available for investment in their technology projects with the safety of knowing Invest Ottawa will be there to guide these investments from ZDG.

The presence of a major Chinese company in Ottawa also allows for great knowledge-sharing for those companies wishing to expand into the Chinese market.

Invest Ottawa and ZDG also signed a Medical Devices Investment Agreement as they did an agreement with Jianwei Health Products.

The Signing Ceremony of Memorandum of Agreement between
University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine
and Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine



**Memorandum of Agreement between
University of Ottawa and Shanghai Jiao Tong University
渥太华大学和上海交通大学签署合作备忘录**

With the growth of China's middle class and the desire for Canadian students to learn about and study in China, I was thrilled to see the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine sign an agreement, witnessed by Governor General David Johnston and myself.

In fact representatives for Jiao Tong University arrived in Ottawa last week and I had the opportunity to meet them at the Ottawa Hospital on Friday.

This strategic partnership establishes joint programs in medical research, innovation and research in medical education and medical training with both sides agreeing to invest a total of \$2 million over the next five years.

These agreements were important steps for Ottawa's business, medical, and education communities.



But Ottawa's arts community was on fine display as well in China as the NAC Orchestra happened to be doing a tour of the country while we were there.

The NAC Orchestra is truly one of Ottawa's artistic gems under the leadership of Pinchas Zuckerman.

In China, I was fortunate enough to attend one of their concerts along with Governor General David Johnston.

The Chinese crowd loved the performance, as I did, and in delivering such a fantastic performance and tour, our NAC Orchestra provided fantastic promotion of Ottawa that complimented our delegation's visit.



**Strengthening Ottawa's cooperative relationship
with its Sister City, Beijing**
加强渥太华与北京之间的姐妹城市合作关系

Now that I have been back for 6 months and have had some time to reflect on the trip, I am optimistic that the groundwork has been laid for the Ottawa relationship with Beijing and the rest of China to continue to flourish.

The trip was a whirlwind of activity but I have heard from a number of the trip's delegates how rewarding it was for them both personally and from a business perspective.

Our focus at the city is often the small day-to-day things like garbage removal and filling potholes.

These are critical city services and highly visible ones but they aren't all the city can or should be doing.

When we as a city have the opportunity to broaden our relationship with a city like Beijing and a country like China, we need to seize it.

And I am glad that we were able to do so because ultimately it is the city as a whole that will benefit from our 40-strong delegation from last October.

So thank you very much for having me here this evening.