

Celebrating the
CANADA-MINNESOTA
PARTNERSHIP



Canada 

Across three centuries, Canada and the United States have been the closest of friends, partners, and allies. Sharing a long and secure border that is a gateway for extensive business and people ties, Minnesota and Canada are particularly close. Exports to Canada, the state's top customer, support tens of thousands of Minnesota jobs, and Canadian visitors contribute to the state's steady economy. Canada and Minnesota continue to work together to strengthen the cross-border connections of this strong – and still growing – partnership.

Here are some illustrations, from past to present, of the special community, cultural, and commercial ties we share.

Canada 

1678

Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Lhut, travels from Montreal to the area that is eventually named Duluth, Minnesota. Later, two other Canadians, Pierre “Pig’s Eye” Parrant (1838) and John Stevens (1849), are the first people of European descent to live in the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Many Minnesota places are named after early French Canadian voyageurs, traders, and explorers.

1818

The Anglo-American Convention of 1818 establishes the 49th parallel as the boundary between the U.S. and Canada from the Northwest Angle at Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains.

1879

Canadian-born James J. Hill turns St. Paul into the Upper Midwest’s rail hub by building the northernmost transcontinental railroad route in the United States. Hill’s Great Northern survives as part of Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). *Photo source: Minnesota Historical Society*



1901

The Duluth, Virginia, and Rainy Lake Railway, which later becomes a part of Canadian National (CN), begins construction at Virginia, Minnesota. The railway eventually extends north to bridge the Rainy River on the Canada-U.S. border, and south to Duluth. By 2014, CN employs nearly 500 in Minnesota, with over \$200 million in spending in the state.

1909

The Canada-U.S. Boundary Waters Treaty is signed, becoming the world’s first international environmental agreement. The treaty protects 134 rivers and lakes that run along or across our shared border, including many in Minnesota.

1928

Northwest Airways launches regular passenger air service between Minnesota and Winnipeg. Currently, direct airline routes connect Minnesota to eight cities across Canada.

1936

Manitoba’s provincial utility supplies hydroelectricity to Minnesota for the first time. Today, Minnesota meets more than 10% of its annual electricity needs with clean hydropower from Canada. Canada is the largest source of imported natural gas, electricity, and uranium for the United States.

1950

The first cross-border pipeline transports crude oil from Canada into Minnesota. 80-90% of the oil currently refined in Minnesota is Canadian, including nearly all of the jet fuel consumed at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport. Canada remains the most reliable supplier of imported oil for the United States.

1951

3M, one of many prominent Minnesota companies to invest in Canada, establishes a subsidiary in London, Ontario. In 1983, 3M receives its first French language trademark, Feuilles Notocollants, for Post-it notes. *Photo source: 3M Canada*



1954

General Mills introduces Cheerios to Canada. Today Cheerios are made almost entirely from Canadian oats. Some 6,000 railcars of Canadian oats are milled in Minnesota annually. This is one of many successful cross-border supply chains - a tasty example of how Canada and the U.S. "make things together." *Photo source: General Mills*



1959

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system opens, connecting U.S. and Canadian centers of mining, manufacturing, and agriculture to each other and to the global marketplace. As part of this system, the Port of Duluth-Superior is the farthest-inland freshwater port in North America and the largest and busiest on the Great Lakes, supporting an estimated 11,510 jobs by 2010.

1970

Minnesota Walter Mondale makes his first of several official visits to Canada as U.S. vice president. More recently, in 2009, President Barack Obama chooses Ottawa, Canada as his first foreign visit, once again underscoring the close relations between Canada and the U.S.

1980

The Canadian Consulate in Minneapolis, which opened in 1970, is upgraded to a Consulate General, expanding its work on trade, investment promotion, and political and public affairs. Today, our territory comprises Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

1986

Will Steger and Paul Schurke, accompanied by fellow Minnesotan Ann Bancroft and five others, lead the International Polar Expedition to the North Pole. The expedition was the first confirmed dogsled trip without resupply. In 2011, the three join their Canadian teammates Richard Weber and Brent Boddy for a reunion in St. Paul, the first time the entire team had reassembled since their historic trek.

1988

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet performs at St. Paul's Ordway Center. The celebrated company has performed several times in Minnesota, including the world premiere of *Moulin Rouge* in 2009 and the U.S. premiere of *Wonderland* in 2011.



Photo source: Royal Winnipeg Ballet

1988

The historic Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement — a precursor to the North American Free Trade Agreement — is signed, spurring more trade, investment and jobs on both sides of the border. Today, Canada is the largest customer for 35 U.S. states, including Minnesota.



1989

Manitoba and Minnesota sign a reciprocity agreement allowing students to attend post-secondary institutions across the border for the same tuition rate as at home. Since then, many Minnesota students have pursued high-quality university educations in Manitoba and elsewhere across Canada.

1996

Winnipeg-based New Flyer Industries opens a bus assembly facility in Crookston, Minnesota, and a second plant three years later in St. Cloud. By 2015, the company employs more than 1,000 Minnesotans as the leading manufacturer of heavy-duty transit buses in North America. *Photo source: Metro Transit*



1996

Canada's Thomson Corporation acquires St. Paul-based West Publishing — and later, Reuters — making Thomson Reuters Legal, now based in Eagan, the largest Canadian-owned employer in Minnesota.

1999

The Minnesota Twins pick British Columbia native Justin Morneau in the amateur draft. The star first baseman is named the 2006 American League MVP and plays for Minnesota until 2013.

2004

The Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Line (later renamed the Blue Line) begins operating between downtown Minneapolis and the MSP airport/Mall of America. Its passenger cars are built by Bombardier, a Montreal-based company with manufacturing facilities in the United States.

2010

Minnesota sends 21 athletes (more than any other state) to the XXI Winter Olympic



Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, including alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn, pictured. Minnesotans bring home medals in alpine skiing and ice hockey. *Photo source: www.olympics.org*

2010

Canada's Consulate General and the Minnesota State Legislature celebrate the Consulate's 40th anniversary with "Canada Day at the Capitol" in St. Paul. The event showcases the strong partnership between Canada and Minnesota, and highlights jobs, the economy, and energy.

2011

As part of a decades-long partnership, Minnesota National Guard soldiers from Moorhead conduct an extreme weather training exercise in



the biting cold of northern Quebec. This mission, Guerrier Nordique, was conducted with members of the Canadian Armed Forces from Quebec City. *Photo source: Minnesota National Guard*

2012

The Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds Demonstration Team performs at the Duluth Air Show. The Snowbirds, based in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, first came to Minnesota in 1974 and returned in 1977 and 2008. *Photo source: Royal Canadian Air Force*



2012

After 40 years as a successful tool for environmental protection, the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is updated to renew both countries' commitment to combating current challenges. Together, Canada and the U.S. are working to restore and protect Lake Superior and all the waters of our shared Great Lakes.

2013

Canada's Consul General "competes" against Senator Amy Klobuchar and several members of the Minnesota Vikings in a Peace Pull between the towns of Fort Frances, Ontario, and International Falls, Minnesota. The friendly tug-of-war held across the Rainy River underscores the peaceful nature of the U.S.-Canada border and the connections between the communities on either side. *Photo source: Canadian Consulate General*



2013

AAR Aircraft Services opens in a former Northwest Airlines maintenance facility near the Duluth airport, hiring hundreds in the Duluth area to perform maintenance, repair, and overhaul services for Air Canada. Within two years, AAR has completed service work on 200 Air Canada jets, with an estimated annual economic impact on the state of Minnesota of \$47 million.

2015

Canadian Andrew Wiggins is named NBA Rookie of the Year for his debut with the Minnesota Timberwolves. Wiggins played in all 82 games and led all rookies in scoring with an average of 16.9 points per game. *Photo source: Minnesota Timberwolves*



DID YOU KNOW?

- Two-way trade between Minnesota and Canada was \$13.1 billion in 2015.
- Trade and investment ties with Canada support an estimated 174,200 jobs in Minnesota.
- Canadians made a total of 795,400 trips to Minnesota in 2013, spending \$242 million in tourism dollars and directly benefiting the local economy.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

#CanadaInMN

#WhatAConsulateDoes

#WeMakeThingsTogether

#FriendsPartnersAllies

#SharedWaters

#EnviroPartners

The Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis represents Canada in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Canada enjoys close ties with all five of these Upper Midwest states — in fact, Canada is the largest export customer for all of them. Annual two-way goods trade between this region and Canada averages \$36 billion, supporting 376,400 jobs per year. In addition, Canadians make almost 2.3 million trips to these states and spend \$615 million on vacations in the region annually.



The Consulate General in Minneapolis is part of a network of Canadian offices working to promote trade and investment links, to engage citizens and decision-makers on many matters of shared interest, and to assist Canadians living and traveling in the United States.

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