

Research Trip to Quebec and Ottawa September 21-26, 2012

The project team made a research trip to Quebec City, Montréal and Ottawa in late September 2012. The itinerary included visiting the Faculty of Medicine at Université Laval, the Department of Geography and the Law School of Université de Montréal, as well as the offices of CIDA and the AUCC in Ottawa. The trip concluded with an evening lecture at the National Archives in Ottawa, under the auspices of the Canada-China Friendship Society.

The 12-year university linkage between Laval's Faculty of Medicine and the Norman Bethune Medical School in China was one of the most successful projects of the CIDA sponsored Canada-China University Linkage & Consolidation Programs (1988-2001). The Bethune-Laval Oncology Unit, which develops and conducts holistic cancer treatment and was established in the 1990s, is now a widely emulated teaching and practice model across all of China. The current leaders of Laval Medical Faculty are striving to continue the inspiring collaborations in medical education with China and beyond. A key factor that they saw as influencing past success was the fact that Laval introduced to China medical initiatives, such as its tumor registry, which were being newly developed in Quebec at the time.

Université de Montréal had two major CIDA projects with China over the last 2 decades – one in transportation infrastructure building with Shanghai Polytechnic University, and another with China's College of Judges and the University of Political Science and Law in training Chinese judges. The dean of the Law School has subsequently built vigorously on the momentum and opportunities arising from the training of judges. Since 2006, they have developed a special Master's program in Business Law for Chinese students, and many other short-term training programs for law students and legal professionals. They have also sent many of their own students to China for summer seminars and an opportunity to understand China's legal environment. The Law School of Université de Montréal is proud of having become a recognized partner with major law schools in Beijing, Shanghai and Wuhan.

One of the highlights of the Quebec trip was the visit with Ambassador Fred Bild, who served as Ambassador to China from 1990 to 1994 and is now an adjunct professor at the Centre of East Asian Studies, Université de Montréal. His insightful knowledge on CIDA and some of its major project in China provided valuable historical background for our study, and we were extremely honored by his acceptance of our invitation to serve as a keynote speaker in our culminating international conference at Tsinghua in Beijing in May of 2014.

Our final destination was Ottawa where we had crucially valuable meetings at the offices of CIDA, the sponsor agency for the linkages we are studying, and the AUCC, the executing agency for the Canada-China University Linkage and Consolidation Programs under this study. Some senior CIDA officers showed strong support for this study, providing concrete program background information. All of the information and viewpoints we gathered on this research trip will be of great value as our project goes forward. Out of it, we hope to produce a milestone volume that will document the immense contribution made by the Canadian Government and CIDA over three decades of collaboration in higher education between Canada and China.



Visit with Ambassador and Mrs. Bild at their home in Montréal



A lecture evening with the Canada-China Friendship Society in the National Archives, September 25, 2012