Research on Education and Culture International Exchanges and Cooperation Between China and Canada*

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The paper combed through the international exchanges and cooperation of Education and Culture between Canada and China. It focused on analyzing the performance and achievements of the international exchanges and cooperation in Education and Culture between Canada and China. At the end of the paper, the trend of the international exchanges and cooperation of Education and Culture between these two countries is predicted and corresponding proposals are put forward.

Keywords: international exchanges and cooperation, education, cultural

Introduction

Canada’s system of education, especially higher education, is world-renown. Educational cooperation between China and Canada will not only promote educational development in both countries, but accelerate China’s progress in educational reform. In recent years, with more and more Chinese student going to Canada to study, such cooperation is becoming increasingly close. China, in recent years, has witnessed a steady increase in the number of teachers and students who visit or receive training in foreign countries. Statistics indicate that more than 32,000 people, most of whom are teachers, were sent by China in the year of 2017 to 2018 (China Scholarship Council, 2016 to 2019).

1. Achievements

1.1 Achievements of Education Exchanges and Cooperation

1.1.1 Chinese Students in Canada

Studying abroad has become a global trend, and China is on the frontline. In 2015, the total number of Chinese students going abroad to study is 1.26 million, making up one fourth of the world’s total—that is to say, one of every four international students is Chinese.

Judging from the numbers of 2015, Chinese students in Canada and the US account for 30% of the two

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countries’ international students. Canada ranks the first among Chinese students’ favorite destinations, and Chinese international students make up a third of the country’s foreign student population.

China has become, as a matter of fact, a major source of international students, and Chinese students currently account for over 30% of the foreign students in Canada and the United States.

1.1.2 Visiting Scholars

At present, there are two ways for Chinese scholars to visit Canada. They may apply for a program run by the Department of Education or the China Scholarship Council; seek help from the institution they work for; or resort to personal channels.

Among all the existing scholar exchange programs between Canada and China, Canada-China Scholar Exchange Program (CCSEP) is the most important and influential. According to Canadian statistics, over 1000 Canadian scholars had taken part in the CCSEP during the 42 year period from 1973 to 2015, contributing not only to the technological and academic exchanges between Canada and China, but also to promoting Canadian understanding of China’s educational and social institutions.

1.1.3 Cooperation in School Running

One of the unique characteristics of Canada’s education system is the flexible ways of managing schools. At present, schools cooperatively-run by Chinese and Canadian institutions range from primary and middle schools to institutes of higher learning. Such cooperative programs are of great importance to educational exchanges between the two countries, especially when it comes to higher education.

On the other hand, cooperation in research and personal training (teacher development) are also common forms of educational exchange. In 2004, the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and the Canada International Management Institute (CIMI) co-founded the, which opened up a new horizon for further exchanges. As more and more Chinese universities send their researchers and teachers to Canada, academic cooperation and exchanges have been expanded like never before.

1.1.4 Cooperation Between Educational Think Tanks

The Center for Education Development, a research center run by the Chinese Department of Education, is planning to establish a new agency called Comprised of universities and institutes of education and research from both Canada and China, as well as Canadian and Chinese experts, this center will be dedicated to organizing think tanks on educational research, comparative study of Chinese and Canadian educational policies, hosting China-Canada education forums and seminars on a regular basis, publishing research findings, offering student exchange programs, as well as sharing information and exchange programs.

1.2 Tourism Growth and Mutual Understanding

After the signing of the Canada-China ADS in 2010, the number of Chinese tourists to Canada has been growing at a rate of over 20% every year. According to statistics published by Destination Canada, the number of Chinese tourists to Canada in 2015 rose 8.8% over last year, reaching 493800. China remains the 4th largest source of foreign tourists in Canada.

1.3 Increasingly Innovative and Intimate Cooperation in Artistic Performances

With the Canadian mainstream communities becoming more and more interested in Chinese culture, the gala evening, co-hosted by the Ministry of Culture, SARFT and China Broadcast Art Troupe, had been held in
various Canadian cities including Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver for 8 consecutive years, and is now an important brand for non-governmental cultural exchange between China and Canada.

1.4 Growing Exchange in Culture and Culture Industry

Up to now, 18 Confucius Classrooms and 12 Confucius Institutes had been established in Canada. Despite the important roles these establishments play in promoting Canada-China culture communication, their activities inevitably drew suspicion. A report published by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIC) in May, 2007 stated that the Confucius institutes are vehicles of culture fertilization, through which the Chinese government seeks to “brainwash” Canadians with its own ideology and policies.

2. Existing Problems

2.1 Canada is Not Yet Ready to Conduct Culture Exchange under the Scenario of China’s Rise to Power

We have yet to see any consistent Canadian policy towards China. Since culture relationship relies on political connections, it is important for the Canadian government to recognize China’s rise and the changes it brings to the world.

2.2 Misreading of Chinese Culture Left the Canadians Worried that it May Threaten Domestic Cultural Security

Mutual understanding and trust is crucial to the long term development of cultural exchanges. When it comes to Canada and China, the Canadian government should keep in mind that the two countries have vastly different cultural systems, and forge a more trustful relationship with their Chinese counterparts.

2.3 American Influences

The dynamic balance between China, the United States and Canada is crucial to the Canadian government’s capacity to conduct culture exchange with China. While it is important to maintain its traditional ties with the US, Canada needs to improve its independence in foreign policy, and strengthen its domestic culture in the face of American assimilation.

3. Trends and Suggestions

3.1 Positive Trends in China-Canada Culture Exchange

In October 2015, Justin Trudeau became the new Canadian prime minister. According to media speculations, the new administration will have a positive influence on the development of China-Canada culture exchange.

3.2 Suggestions

The key to developing culture exchange is for both countries to remain tolerant, multinational and confident in culture affairs. The fact that both China and Canada are multinational countries served as a solid foundation for the further development culture exchange.

The Canadian government should stay adhere to its multicultural traditions, and forge a top-down, comprehensive, and detailed policy towards China. Differences in ideology should be overlooked, and cultural differences should be respected.

The Chinese government should make full use of China’s economic influence to promote culture industries, so that culture exchange between Canada and China may achieve further development. Meanwhile, Canadian
Chinese and Chinese Canadians from all social circles may also contribute to the healthy development of bilateral cultural relations by conducting various non-governmental exchanges. The sustainable development of culture exchanges relies on the Chinese and Canadian people’s understanding and recognition of each other.

**Conclusion**

China, in recent years, has witnessed a steady increase in the number of teachers and students who visit or receive training in foreign countries. Statistics indicate that more than 32,000 people, most of whom are teachers, were sent by China in the year of 2017 to 2018 (China Scholarship Council, 2016 to 2019). This research explored China and Canada Education and Culture Exchange to find existing problems and challenges and seek Countermeasures of future. The key issue that my research project targets is to promote China and Canada Education and Cultural Exchange, and the research will give an in-depth understanding.

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