

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel

(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Trade and Export Development
Title of Travel	Mission to South Korea and Japan
Location	Seoul, Osaka and Tokyo
Date(s)	September 6-12, 2025
Participants	Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Trade and Export Development Ryan Cossitt, Assistant Deputy Minister of Trade and Export Development
Purpose of Travel	Advance Saskatchewan’s (SK’s) trade and investment relations with South Korea and Japan, ensure diversified market access for SK goods and explore opportunities to deepen collaboration through meetings with government agencies and key industry stakeholders.
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants	
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)	\$20,569.00
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)	\$524.03
Accommodation (including room charges and all related taxes and fees)	\$4,056.94
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)	\$1,358.26
Conference & Registration Fees	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$26,508.23
General Travel Expenditures	
Business Hosting Expenses (expenses for luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$26,508.23

Overview of Travel and Objectives

South Korea and Japan are important and valued trading partners for Saskatchewan (SK). As such, it is important that the Minister maintain relationships and conduct missions to both countries regularly. In 2024, SK exports to South Korea were valued at C\$162.3 million (M) while exports to Japan totaled C\$929.1M.

- Japan is a key buyer of SK's agricultural products and potash – SK was Canada's third-largest agri-food exporter to Japan in 2024 and was Japan's second largest supplier of canola seeds and barley.
- Japanese companies are key investors in SK's mineral, agriculture, technology and clean energy sectors.
- SK was South Korea's largest supplier of potash in 2024, accounting for 78.3% of their total potash imports.
- South Korea is also a key partner in the deployment of transformational 5G technologies in the province and South Korean companies are important investors in SK's mining sector.

This was Minister Kaeding's first mission to South Korea and Japan. Mission objectives included:

- underscoring the significance of SK's trade relationship with South Korea and Japan and exploring opportunities to expand and diversify SK exports into both markets;
- highlighting the province's leadership and capabilities in areas of strategic priority including agriculture, critical minerals, mining and energy, and promoting SK as a trusted and reliable supplier of sustainable food, fuel and fertilizer critical for global food and energy security through bilateral meetings and events such as Expo 2025 Osaka;
- showcasing SK's rich mineral resources, expertise and investments in the minerals sector and position SK as a secure, ethical and reliable supplier of critical minerals and rare earth elements;
- showcasing SK as a preferred destination for investment in meetings with potential Japanese and Korean investors and through participation in events;
- promoting SK's Japan Office as a resource to deepen SK's linkages with both Japan and South Korea, in meetings with industry and government and through participation in events.

Travel Activity

- While in Seoul, the Minister met with:
 - Canada's Ambassador to South Korea;
 - Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy;
 - International Vaccine Institute (IVI);

- A global company with an interest to invest in carbon capture and small modular reactor opportunities in SK; and,
- Korea Atomic Industrial Forum to discuss opportunities for collaboration in nuclear energy.
- The Minister also:
 - participated in an Agriculture Commodities Industry Roundtable to engage with businesses who buy SK products and emphasize SK's ability to be a long-term stable supplier of agri-food products to South Korea;
 - witnessed the signing of an expanded Memorandum of Understanding between SK's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization and IVI that focuses on post-pandemic global health; and,
 - provided remarks at a SK forum to highlight the SK-South Korea relationship and showcase opportunities to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment and innovation.
- While in Osaka, the Minister:
 - provided remarks at an event at the Expo 2025 Canada pavilion to profile SK's leadership in agriculture, energy and, innovation to key Japanese industry and government contacts; and,
 - met with four SK partners at their Expo pavilions to learn about their corporate priorities and discuss opportunities for increased collaboration.
- While in Tokyo, the Minister met with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japan Atomic Industrial Forum and the leadership team of Canada's Embassy in Japan.
- The Minister also held joint meetings with Premier Scott Moe in Tokyo including with:
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry;
 - a global trading company with potential investment interest in SK's critical minerals sector;
 - two major investors in SK's agriculture sector to reinforce SK's commitment to the relationship and explore opportunities for further collaboration;
 - two companies with significant investment interests in SK's energy sector;
 - three agri-food industry associations including Japan Oil and Fat Importers and Exporters Association, Japan Flour Millers Association and Japan Grain Importers Association to reinforce the province's commitment to continue to serve as a reliable supplier of high quality agri-food products to Japan for many years to come; and,
 - Japan Oil and Gas Organization for Metals and Energy Security to discuss ongoing collaboration in energy security and opportunities for further collaboration.

- The Minister also participated in:
 - a roundtable discussion with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan Board of Governors; and,
 - a SK forum to profile SK's leadership in energy and agriculture and highlight opportunities for investment.