

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses
(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Advanced Education	
Title of Travel	Mission to the Philippines and Thailand	
Location	Manila, Philippines and Bangkok, Thailand	
Date(s)	February 20-28, 2026	
Participants	Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Advanced Education Louise Michaud, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education Anna Robinson, Executive Director of International Education, Advanced Education Kenneth Cotterill, Chief of Staff to Minister Cheveldayoff	
Purpose of Travel	To advance Saskatchewan’s (SK’s) education, research, and labour market goals in the Philippines and Thailand.	
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants		
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)		\$41,906.47
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)		\$926.46
Accommodation (including room charges and all related taxes and fees)		\$6,094.44
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)		\$2,756.80
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)		\$786.08
Subtotal		\$52,470.25
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)		\$130.80
Subtotal		\$130.80
TOTAL		\$52,601.05

Overview of Travel and Objectives

Mission objectives included:

- Advance the province's *International Education Strategy* and elevate SK's post-secondary advantages in response to recent reputational impacts arising from changes to the *International Student Program*;
- Engage with Philippine and Thai post-secondary institutions to explore further opportunities to strengthen academic and global engagements through research, educational exchanges, and knowledge sharing;
- Support the development and renewal of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between SK post-secondary institutions and partner institutions in the Philippines and Thailand; and,
- Engage with senior government officials to reinforce SK's relationship with the Philippines and Thailand and identify opportunities to deepen bilateral cooperation in agriculture, and energy sectors.

SK appreciates the growth in international postsecondary student enrolments from the Philippines and the strong interest in partnerships. We value the MOU between the Philippine Department of Energy and the Ministry of Trade and Export Development on Sustainable and Clean Energy Transition and Development; the MOU between the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Philippine Commission on Higher Education; and broader collaboration between our postsecondary institutions.

The Philippines is a market of strategic importance for SK with exports valued at C\$168.6 million (M) in 2025. Top exports were non-durum wheat (C\$83.3M), potash (C\$51.7M) and dried peas (C\$28.5M).

- In 2025, SK was the Philippines' largest supplier of potash and dried peas, accounting for 61.9% and 53.3% of the Philippines imports of these products, respectively.

In addition to agri-food exports, there are significant opportunities to collaborate in the critical minerals and nuclear sector, including the potential to supply uranium fuel to power the Philippines' nuclear plants.

Thailand is an emerging market for our post-secondary institutions, and the SK Vietnam Office has been engaging with Thai partners on opportunities for accelerating the relationships for SK.

Thailand is the fourth largest export destination for SK in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region and an important emerging trade partner. In 2025, SK exported C\$210.3M of products to Thailand. Top exports were potash (C\$131.7M), non-durum wheat (C\$40M) and peas (C\$16.6M).

- In 2025, SK was Thailand's largest supplier of potash and peas, accounting for about 31.6% and 64% of Thailand's import of these products, respectively.

SK welcomes the launch of bilateral free trade agreement negotiations with the Philippines and Thailand, which once finalized will cut tariffs, eliminate red tape, and expand market access for SK/Canadian exporters of goods and services.

Travel Activity

While in Manila, Minister Cheveldayoff:

- Witnessed the signing of three institutional agreements:
 - University of Regina signed an MOU and Student Exchange Program Agreement with Lyceum-Northwestern University, focused on collaboration in health and medical sciences;
 - University of Saskatchewan renewed its MOU with Mariano Marcos State University, focused on food security and agricultural research collaboration; and,
 - Saskatchewan Polytechnic signed an MOU with the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, focused on micro credentials/continuing education.
- Chaired the Philippines-SK Joint Working Group Meeting on Sustainable and Clean Energy Transition Development with a focus on workforce and skills development; technology development and deployment; research and innovation; and building strong partnership with community, indigenous, and stakeholder engagement.
- Reinforced SK's profile at the Friends of SK Networking Reception.
- Supported the SaskAlliance Recruitment Agent Event to advance SK's international education engagement and connect SK institutions with prospective recruitment partners.
- Participated in roundtable discussions with the Commission on Higher Education, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Department of Science and Technology to explore collaboration in institutional partnerships, skills development, and innovation.
- Met with representatives from:
 - Embassy of Canada in the Philippines;
 - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada;
 - Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture;
 - Unilab Education Inc.;
 - Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry; and,
 - Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

While in Bangkok, Minister Cheveldayoff:

- Witnessed the signing of four institutional agreements between the University of Regina and:
 - Srinakharinwirot University;
 - Khon Kaen University;
 - Khon Kaen University International College; and,
 - King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok.
- Highlighted SK's trade linkages with Thailand and strengths in post-secondary education and research systems at the Friends of SK Networking Reception; and,

- Met with representatives from:
 - Embassy of Canada in Thailand;
 - Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation;
 - Thailand Professional Qualification Institute;
 - Thammasat University;
 - Kasetsart University;
 - Chitralada Technology Institute;
 - Chulalongkorn University;
 - Thai Cement Manufacturers Association; and,
 - Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor.