
News Release

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MANITOBA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIGN AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Minister for International Trade Roy MacLaren, Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development) Jon Gerrard on behalf of Industry Minister John Manley, and Manitoba Deputy Premier and Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism James Erwin Downey will sign today a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on co-operation in international business development. The MOU will be signed during a luncheon in Winnipeg attended by leading Manitoba business representatives.

The agreement commits both governments to work together, in consultation with the Manitoba business community, in the planning and delivery of international business development programs and services. It provides for greater collaboration in planning, information sharing, trade development, exporter education and training, investment promotion, and industry and technology development.

"Last year, Manitoba exported nearly \$5 billion worth of goods and services, representing almost 20 per cent of our gross domestic product," Mr. Downey said. "Clearly, export growth is essential to the prosperity of this province, and we recognize the important role of both levels of government in helping Manitoba business achieve its trade potential. Our aim in the MOU is to make sure Manitoba businesses get maximum value out of the trade development resources offered by both governments."

"International business is key to creating jobs and sustained economic growth," Mr. MacLaren said. "This agreement will help us achieve greater success in international markets by reducing duplication and improving the effectiveness of services and programs to businesses. It puts us squarely on the path towards a true 'Trade Team Canada' approach to global markets."



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