



News Release

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CANADIAN COMPANIES OBTAIN CONTRACTS WORTH \$150 MILLION IN KUWAIT

The Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, announced today that Canadian companies participating in the reconstruction of Kuwait received 17 contracts worth some \$150 million in the first eight months of 1991.

"This is by no means a final tally, as additional contracts are still being negotiated," Mr. Wilson said. "Canadian companies were competitive bidders in securing these contracts. We should all be proud of the role Canadian firms are playing in the effort to rebuild Kuwait."

Canada's oil and gas sector was a leader in the international effort to extinguish some 640 oil well fires ignited in Kuwait during the Gulf War. Safety Boss of Calgary -- selected by the Kuwaitis as one of the original firefighting companies -- brought 178 oil wells under control, the most by any company from any country. Three more Alberta firms received signed contracts from the Kuwait Oil Company. Other Canadian exporters are helping Kuwait address environmental, construction, communications and other needs.

"With the last of the oil well fires extinguished by Safety Boss November 6, the reconstruction effort has entered a new phase in Kuwait," the Minister said. "Business is returning to normal and the Canadian Embassy is at full strength, prepared to work with Canadian exporters interested in penetrating markets in Kuwait or the Gulf states. As a first step, however, new exporters should contact the International Trade Centre (ITC) in their province to explore first-hand how to do business in these important markets and how to take advantage of the assistance available."