

# News Release

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## NEW AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

A Trade Agreement and a Declaration of Principles between Canada and the Republic of Kazakhstan were signed today, in the presence of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and visiting Kazakhstan Prime Minister Akezhan M. Kazhegeldin.

The Declaration of Principles, which describes the basis on which the two countries will conduct and develop their relations, was signed by Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan and Kazakh Foreign Affairs Minister Kasymzhomart K. Tokaev. The Trade Agreement, which was signed by Mr. Chan and Kazakh Economy Minister Altai L. Tleuberdin, will facilitate trade between the two countries and provide the Canadian business community with additional certainty regarding its interests and activities in Kazakhstan. "This agreement, along with the declaration, clearly demonstrates the growing economic and political relationship between our two countries," said Mr. Chan.

A Memorandum of Intent to negotiate a Double Taxation Agreement and a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement with the Republic of Kazakhstan was also signed today by Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions) Doug Peters and Kazakh Finance Minister Alexander S. Pavlov. Both ministers and Kazakh Oil and Gas Minister Nurlan U. Balgimbaev also witnessed the signing of three commercial protocols between Canadian companies and their Kazakh partners. "Many Canadian companies have already taken advantage of new opportunities to invest in Kazakhstan, including in the hydrocarbon, mining, telecommunications and agriculture sectors. These new protocols will further enhance our trade and investment links," said Mr. Peters. (See Backgrounder I.)

A \$1.1-million technical assistance package for Kazakhstan was also announced today by Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet. The assistance package primarily concentrates on Canadian activities in the mining and oil and gas sectors. "Mining and

