

In recent years, Mexico has greatly modified its import regulations and has significantly reduced tariff and other barriers to trade, particularly since 1986 when Mexico joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ("GATT").

These reforms have created significant opportunities for Canadian exporters and investors and have set the stage for expanded Canada-Mexico trade.

Canada welcomes Mexico's commitment to growth and the improvement of its living standards through open and outward looking economic policies, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. There is, among the three countries, a mutual interest in achieving expanded growth through liberalized trade, resulting in expanded export opportunities.

"It is essential that Parliament and all Canadians be fully involved in the consultation process. We will continue to consult widely and openly in the coming months to ensure that Canada is fully prepared prior to the commencement of actual negotiations sometime next year", Mr. Crosbie said.

For more information, media representatives may contact:

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