

# News Release

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## MACLAREN LEADS CANADIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION TO POLAND

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, visited Poland today for discussions with Polish ministers and business representatives. He was accompanied by a large Canadian business delegation pursuing trade and investment opportunities.

Mr. MacLaren was hosted by Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Jacek Buchacz. He met with Prime Minister Josef Oleksy, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Grzegorz Kolodko, Minister of Construction and Land Barbara Blida, and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Mroziewicz.

"I was impressed with Poland's accomplishments in its economic transition towards a market economy. I am confident that further trade and economic liberalization will take place in Poland, creating new opportunities for Canadian and Polish businesspeople," Mr. MacLaren said.

As Minister responsible for the Export Development Corporation (EDC), Mr. MacLaren witnessed the signature of three important EDC agreements:

- a Memorandum of Understanding with Bank Handlowy to make available a \$20-million line of credit to help finance Canadian exports to Poland, the first such facility extended by EDC to Poland in 16 years;
- a Co-operative Framework Agreement with KUKE, Poland's export credit agency, providing a framework whereby EDC and KUKE will seek to increase co-operation in the financing and insuring of Canadian and Polish participation in projects in third countries;
- a Protocol with International UNP Holdings Limited of Canada outlining the intent of EDC and UNP to invest jointly in Poland.

