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# news release

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## MACLAREN ANNOUNCES CONCLUSION OF CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE CANADA-UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEER

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that Canada and the United States have successfully concluded consultations under the Memorandum of Understanding on Provincial Beer Marketing Practices (MOU).

"I am pleased that these consultations have been concluded successfully and that the MOU will remain in operation," Mr. MacLaren said. "This will allow cross-border trade in beer to continue unhindered."

Through the consultations, Canada and the United States have come to an agreement on the terms of access for U.S. beer sold in the Quebec market. Under these terms, access will be provided to more than 12 000 points of sale, including convenience and corner stores, where most beer is sold in Quebec. A new annex to the MOU sets out specific understandings related to such issues as transportation and distribution of U.S. beer.

In the case of British Columbia, both countries have agreed to modifications in warehousing requirements that will facilitate the distribution of U.S. beer sold in that market.

"We have worked very closely with the provinces throughout these consultations," Mr. MacLaren noted. "We look forward to ongoing co-operation with them to ensure that the MOU continues to operate effectively."

The consultations also covered U.S. concerns about the application of minimum price systems in certain provinces. Canada and the United States have agreed to discuss this issue further in the future.

The two countries also discussed their dispute under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) regarding the anti-dumping duties applied by Canada against exports of U.S. beer into British Columbia. It was agreed that, in order to address this