
Media Advisory

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MINISTER PETERSON TO TRAVEL TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IN SUPPORT OF CANADA-ARAB BUSINESS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

International Trade Minister Jim Peterson will travel to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from September 17 to 19, 2005, to support Canadian trade and investment opportunities in this key finance and trading hub in the Middle East.

Minister Peterson will participate in several events organized by the Canada-Arab Business Council (CABC). He will be joined by representatives from approximately 21 Canadian organizations and companies.

This visit will include a tour of the Emirates-CAE Flight Training Centre in Dubai, which represents a major investment by Canada's world-leading flight simulator manufacturer, CAE of Montreal. Minister Peterson will also open the offices of Cansult Limited in Sharjah. Cansult is a Markham, Ontario firm of consulting engineers and project managers.

Canadian sectors of interest in the UAE include project management, architecture and engineering, construction products and services, agri-food, information and communications technologies, education, health, and retail franchising. Canadian companies with significant recent successes in the UAE include Alcatel Canada, Bombardier Aerospace, Bregman and Hamann Architects (B+H), CAE, Cansult Limited, the Royal Canadian Mint and SNC Lavalin.

The Minister's visit to the UAE advances Canada's emerging markets strategy, which concentrates on initiatives needed now for China, India and Brazil, while recognizing other markets such as the Arabian Peninsula as important to Canada's economic well-being.

The UAE has a fast-growing and vibrant economy and is the main financial hub of the Arab world. Canada exported almost \$420 million in products to the UAE in 2004, and bilateral trade was nearly \$510 million. This is the second mission to the region over the past year. Last December, Parliamentary Secretary Mark Eyking led a CABC mission to Qatar, Yemen and Egypt.



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