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BEATTY TO PARTICIPATE IN ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty will lead the Canadian delegation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Post Ministerial Conference (ASEAN PMC) in Singapore from July 26 to 28.

The PMC will follow the annual ASEAN Ministerial Meeting July 23 and 24. It brings together the foreign ministers of the six ASEAN countries and the foreign ministers of Canada, Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the United States and the European Community.

"A key part of Canada's future lies in the building of political, economic, commercial and cultural ties with ASEAN," said Mr. Beatty. "The PMC allows us to discuss our common interests and concerns about human rights, security, trade and democratic development."

On July 26, Mr. Beatty will deliver Canada's statement on regional and international issues and concerns. In bilateral meetings, Canada and ASEAN countries will discuss trade relations, regional security, environment, development co-operation, good governance, and human rights, particularly the situation in Myanmar and the continued house arrest of Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

ASEAN was created in 1967 to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region, and to promote peace and security. Its members are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Canada has participated in annual PMCs since 1977. Taken collectively, ASEAN nations constitute Canada's sixth largest trading partner. Canada-ASEAN two-way trade has doubled in the past five years, reaching a high of \$4 billion in 1992.

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