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**MINISTER EMERSON TO PROMOTE CANADA'S TRADE
ADVANTAGE IN SAN FRANCISCO**

The Honourable David L. Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, will travel to San Francisco, California on July 26 and 27, 2006, to promote Canada as a key trading partner and a destination for investment.

Canada and the State of California have a strong trade relationship, with two-way merchandise trade in 2005 totalling \$38.8 billion (US\$32 billion). Canada also enjoys a strong relationship with California in the areas of biotechnology, information technology and research collaboration.

During his two-day visit, Minister Emerson will be meeting business leaders and other local decision-makers from the San Francisco Bay area with a focus on strengthening bilateral trade and investment links. He will explore cooperation and business opportunities in the area of port efficiencies and technology in the context of the Government's Asia-Pacific Gateway Initiative. Minister Emerson will also take the opportunity to promote the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

For more information, please contact:

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