

Media Advisory

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MINISTER PETERSON TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO INDIA

International Trade Minister Jim Peterson will lead a trade mission to Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and New Delhi, India, from April 3 to 7, 2005. This mission will bring together Canadian and Indian business people to strengthen Canadian trade and investment ties with this emerging market. The mission will also focus on fostering science and technology collaborations. Following the trade mission, Minister Peterson will travel to Chennai to officially open the new Canadian Consulate.

India is the world's 12th largest economy and Canada's largest trading partner in South Asia. In 2004, Canadian merchandise exports to India totalled more than \$875 million, while imports from India reached over \$1.5 billion. Canada also has significant investments in India: Canadian foreign direct investment stood at \$184 million in 2003. A nation with tremendous purchasing power, India is the world's second most populous country and has a rapidly expanding middle class.

This trade mission will focus on the following sectors: agriculture; financial services; and infrastructure, specifically in the areas of energy, information and communications technology, and transportation.

Media representatives who wish to participate in the trade mission can register by contacting Véronique Duhamel by telephone at (613) 944-1227 or by e-mail at veronique.duhamel@international.gc.ca.

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