

# News Release

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## MACLAREN WELCOMES VISIT OF PAKISTAN ENERGY MINISTER

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today announced the visit to Canada of His Excellency Anwar Saifullah Khan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, from July 30 to August 3, 1995.

During his visit to Calgary from July 30 to August 1, Mr. Khan will open the Pakistan Petroleum Investment Conference 1995. Sponsored by the Government of Pakistan, this event will highlight trade and investment opportunities in oil and gas refining, exploration and transmission. Mr. Khan will also meet with the Honourable Patricia Black, Alberta Minister of Energy, and representatives of Canadian companies.

While in Vancouver from August 1 to 3, Mr. Khan will meet the Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), and Canadian business representatives.

"Pakistan's oil and gas sector presents significant opportunities for Canadian companies. Oil and gas currently fulfill about 80 per cent of Pakistan's total energy requirements, a demand which is expected to double over the next 10 years," said Mr. MacLaren.

"To help meet this demand, the Government of Pakistan has liberalized private and foreign investment in this sector and is privatizing its state-owned transmission and distribution agencies."

Through development co-operation projects, Canada has worked with Pakistan to develop its energy and power capabilities, including the completion of the first 500 kilovolt line in Asia and the construction of Pakistan's first major hydro-electric dam at Warsak.

While two-way trade was valued at \$260 million in 1994, these trade figures do not adequately reflect the growing nature of Canada-Pakistan trade. In the last eight months, Canadian companies have concluded sales worth \$150 million in sectors liberalized by economic reform.

