



news release

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MACLAREN TO ATTEND NAFTA COMMISSION INAUGURAL MEETING IN MEXICO

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will attend the inaugural meeting of the Free Trade Commission in Mexico City on January 14. The Commission will oversee the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Mr. MacLaren will meet with his counterparts, Mexico's Secretary of Trade and Industrial Development, Dr. Jaime Serra Puche, who will host the meeting, and the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Mickey Kantor.

The ministers will review and provide direction on a number of NAFTA-related matters, including the work of the trilateral working groups on antidumping and subsidies/countervailing duties that were announced by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on December 2, 1993.

"The Government of Canada places great importance on moving ahead with these working groups," Mr. MacLaren said. "We will work with our partners to build upon the progress on trade remedy issues achieved in the recent Uruguay Round negotiations. Our aim is to reduce disputes in our trading relationships."

The meeting of the Free Trade Commission will also provide an opportunity for ministers to discuss other NAFTA matters, including accession to the NAFTA by other countries, negotiations for accelerated tariff elimination, and the establishment of technical working groups, committees and co-ordinating bodies necessary to the smooth and successful operation of the Agreement.

Earlier on Friday, Mr. MacLaren will have a bilateral meeting with Ambassador Kantor to review the management of trade