



---

# news release

---

Date **May 11, 1994**

No. 97

For release

## MACLAREN ANNOUNCES TRADE MISSION TO COLOMBIA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that he will lead a trade mission to Colombia, May 16-19. The visit will support the efforts of Canadian companies pursuing substantial business opportunities in Colombia's telecommunications, oil and gas and transportation sectors.

"The Government of Canada recognizes there are growing opportunities for trade and investment in Colombia," Mr. MacLaren said. "We are working to increase market presence for Canadian exports of high technology, value-added products and services."

Mr. MacLaren will meet with the President of Colombia, Dr. César Gaviria Trujillo, and several of his ministers in the capital, Bogota. Talks are expected to focus on strengthening trade and investment and commercial relations, as well as on discussing the importance of a future bilateral Double Taxation Agreement and Foreign Investment Protection Agreement.

Canada has welcomed Colombia's commitment to economic liberalization and integration within the hemisphere.

Two-way trade between Canada and Colombia reached a new high of \$395 million in 1993, an increase of 10 percent over 1992. Of that amount, Canadian exports accounted for \$223 million. Colombia is Canada's fourth largest export market in Latin America and Canada has consistently run a trade surplus with that country, except in 1989.

A list of companies participating in the trade mission and background information on Canada-Colombia trade relations are attached.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874