

External Affairs and International Trade Canada recently sponsored a series of seminars in Montreal, Toronto and Calgary promoting Canadian joint ventures and business in Poland. The seminars were organized with the co-operation of the host provincial governments and the Polish Trade Commission. Paid attendance at the seminars amounted to almost 400 business people.

Canada is an active member of the "Group of 24" countries which is coordinating assistance to Poland and Hungary. As part of its commitment, Canada has already begun implementation of its own \$42 million assistance program, as announced by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in October 1989. Canada has also provided \$25 million (U.S.) to the international Stabilization Fund established to support convertibility of the Polish currency. A \$20-million short-term revolving credit insurance facility will be part of this package and should encourage exports of Canadian goods and services that respond to Polish requirements.

Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski plans a visit to Poland this Spring on a mission to further define and stimulate future economic relations between Canada and Poland.

For further information, media may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874