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HOCKIN RESPONDS TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BAN ON LUMBER IMPORTS

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, in a letter sent today to Nova Scotia Premier John Savage, stated that the Government of Canada will continue to press for changes in the European Community's import restrictions on Canadian green softwood lumber. In particular, Canada has outlined an action plan to address the EC position on the pinewood nematode issue.

The federal government is committed to continued consultations with the provinces and industry on this and other trade issues, working actively toward the lowering of international trade barriers that restrict Canada's potential as a trading nation and adversely affect the Canadian economy.

"I am very aware of the economic impact of the European Community's action on Nova Scotia," said Mr. Hockin. "We will continue to work with the industry and provinces to maintain and secure access for our lumber producers in European markets."

- 30 -

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