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TRADE MINISTER KELLEHER TO HOLD CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher, announced today that he will conduct consultation meetings across Canada in the coming weeks. "The meetings will serve as a basis for a Canadian dialogue on the challenges we face in trade", Mr. Kelleher said.

As part of its agenda for economic renewal, the Federal Government recently published two discussion papers on trade:

- How to Secure and Enhance Canadian Access to Export Markets, and
- Export Financing.

"The reasons for releasing these consultative documents are the overwhelming importance of trade in the Canadian economy and our need to assess the most effective means to promote it", Mr. Kelleher said. "Exports now account for almost one-third of our Gross Domestic Product and more than three million jobs. Every \$1 billion of additional exports means 16,000 jobs in Canada", Mr. Kelleher said.

The Discussion Papers provide a focus for consultations with the private sector and the provinces and are intended primarily to elicit views on the principal market access problems facing Canadian exporters, and on matters relating to access to the Canadian Market.

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