

# News Release

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## MacLAREN TO ATTEND FIRST WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRADE MINISTERIAL

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today announced that he will attend the first Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial in Denver, Colorado, on June 30.

At the Summit of the Americas last December in Miami, elected heads of government pledged to negotiate a free trade area of the Americas by 2005 and directed their ministers responsible for trade to meet by June 1995.

"This meeting is a critical 'first step' toward negotiating a free trade area of the Americas. Canada strongly supports this initiative as it will increase our individual and collective prosperity and strengthen the drive toward greater trade liberalization worldwide," said Mr. MacLaren.

Ministers are expected to agree on a program of preparatory work to be completed by officials prior to their next meeting in March 1996. They will also review the work undertaken to date by regional fora, including a preliminary report from the Organization of American States' Special Committee on Trade.

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A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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