

News Release

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AUSTRALIAN TRADE MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that Senator Bob McMullan, Australian Minister for Trade, will visit Ottawa and Toronto, July 23-25.

On July 24, Mr. MacLaren will pursue discussions with his Australian counterpart which began during his visit to Australia last March on the occasion of the centenary of official bilateral trade relations between the two countries. Senator McMullan will also meet with Industry Minister John Manley, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Ralph Goodale and senior Department of Finance officials. On July 25, he will speak to the Australian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce at a lunch meeting in Toronto.

"Australia and Canada have always had a close relationship, through common economic interests and membership in the Commonwealth and APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum)," said Mr. MacLaren. "We now want to develop stronger ties by expanding trade opportunities for Canadian and Australian firms and by promoting greater trade liberalization."

Mr. MacLaren and Senator McMullan are expected to discuss a trade and investment agreement. Work is already under way on the agreement which would provide a framework for more co-operation in international business development. It is also designed to explore ways to further liberalize trade and investment and to improve consultation on multilateral and regional trade policy issues. Plans for the agreement were announced during Mr. MacLaren's visit to Australia in March.

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