

CANAD EXPORT



Focus On Northern Ireland and Irish Border Counties

Peace Process Enhances Commercial Opportunities in Northern Ireland and Irish Border Counties

"The emergence of peace in Northern Ireland, combined with strong economic growth in both Ireland and Northern Ireland, and with their membership in the European Union (EU), present significant trade and investment opportunities for Canadian firms in Northern Ireland and the six bordering counties of the Republic of Ireland." International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, Convenor, Canada-Northern Ireland Steering Group.

The private-sector-led Steering Group is designed to support the peace process in Northern Ireland by encouraging economic growth in the region through increased trade and investment relations with Canada.

"I am confident that by raising awareness among Canadian business of the burgeoning opportunities in Northern Ireland and the six bordering counties of the Republic, the Steering Group will generate increased commercial co-operation between our countries to the benefit of all parties concerned," Minister MacLaren said.

Two distinguished Canadians chair the Canada-Northern Ireland and Border County Steering Group: Belfast-born Thomas Savage, Chairman of the Ireland

Trade and Investment Seminar Slated
The Steering Group is planning a number of promotional activities, including seminars on Trade and Investment Opportunities in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties, which will take place in Toronto and Montreal during the week of May 6, 1996.

Further information on the seminars can be requested by contacting the Northern Europe Division, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, Fax: (613) 995-6319.

Fund of Canada and Retired Chairman and President of I.T.T. Canada; and Dublin-born Rowland Fleming, President of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The Committee's membership includes 11 senior Canadian private-sector representatives; the British High Commissioner; the Irish Ambassador; and the

Assistant Deputy Minister (Europe), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

Northern Ireland/Irish Border Counties: Gateway To EU

With good prospects for lasting peace, strong economic growth, and significant new infrastructural developments in the region, more and more companies are locating production in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties to service their customers in Europe. In addition to the advantageous fiscal and financial incentives provided by the British (for Northern Ireland) and Irish governments, this region offers direct and duty-free access to European markets through world-class ports and airports. Combine this with the island's educated, quality-aware work force, competitive labour costs, proximity to and

support from some of the best universities in Europe, and it is easy to see why more and more Canadian firms are considering this region as their gateway to the European Union.

Growing investments in the manufacturing sector of this region are also creating supply opportunities for Canadian exporters, as well as other forms of business co-operation such as joint ventures and technology transfer.

S & T Co-op Agreement

By partnering with a firm from Northern Ireland or Ireland, Canadian companies can benefit from the newly signed Canada-EU Agreement for Scientific and Technological Co-operation.

The Agreement allows Canadian companies, universities and research institutes to access EU public research and development funds by joining with European partners in research and technological development projects.

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