

News Release

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MINISTERS TO ATTEND OECD MEETING

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that he will lead a ministerial delegation including Human Resources Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Industry Minister John Manley to this year's meeting of ministers from member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, May 23-24.

The ministers will discuss economic growth, employment, social progress, and strengthening the multilateral trade and investment system.

"The OECD has an important role to play in efforts to liberalize international trade and investment," Mr. MacLaren said.

"I expect ministers at the Paris meeting will agree to negotiations on a ground-breaking multilateral agreement on investment," he noted. "An agreement on foreign investment will fill an important gap in international rules. It would also help Canadian firms investing abroad and generate more and better jobs in this country."

Mr. Axworthy stressed the importance of jobs to both economic growth and social progress: "We need to ensure that the OECD remains focussed on the problems which high structural unemployment and stagnant income growth create in our societies. An important step was taken with the OECD jobs study - we need to follow up on it."

Mr. Manley said: "We believe there is a positive agenda for creating jobs and growth; and technology and the information society are indispensable to it. The OECD can play a key role in supporting this agenda."

The OECD is the major economic policy forum for the world's most industrialized democracies. The 25 member states develop compatible approaches on a wide range of economic, social and

