

In order to help businesses take full advantage of the opportunities from the opening of the Mexican market, the government will be sponsoring 20 trade events, such as trade shows and trade missions, over the next six months.

The Minister hailed the NAFTA breakthrough as another sign that Canada's trade picture will continue to be a positive force in our economic performance.

He said that Canada's economy has been given a positive boost by the FTA during the last three years. He referred to evidence that the FTA has contributed to economic growth and restrained unemployment and inflation. "The benefits of the FTA are starting to become more obvious," said Mr. Wilson. "Canada has experienced net inflows of direct investment since the FTA went into force, and our exports to the United States and the rest of the world have hit record levels in recent months."

With the NAFTA negotiations successfully concluded, Mr. Wilson said that Canada and all its trading partners must redouble their efforts to reach a successful conclusion soon to the Uruguay Round of multilateral talks, which are intended to promote freer trade on a global basis.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874