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SASKATCHEWAN AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIGN AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren and Saskatchewan Economic Development Minister Dwain Lingenfelter today led the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on international business development co-operation.

The agreement was also signed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Ralph Goodale, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food Minister Andy Renaud, and Jon Gerrard, Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development).

The purpose of the agreement is to provide better services for Saskatchewan exporters by improving co-operation between the federal government and Saskatchewan. The agreement calls for greater collaboration in planning, information sharing, trade fairs and trade missions, education and training, representation abroad, investment promotion, and industry and technology development.

"The agreement that we are signing today points the way to coordinated and streamlined service to exporters," Mr. MacLaren said. "It helps us build a 'Trade Team Canada' approach to trade while moving toward more fiscally responsible government."

The agreement seeks to build Saskatchewan's exports by broadening the access of companies to international markets, making them better prepared for export, strengthening their performance in foreign markets and ensuring the effective promotion of Canada and Saskatchewan for investment and business opportunities. The agreement also establishes a process for business and government to work together to achieve their international business development objectives.

"Trade is of vital importance to Saskatchewan's economy, so we must provide the best possible services to our exporters to help them compete globally," Mr. Lingenfelter said. "The Saskatchewan