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

International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, Industry Minister John Manley and Alberta Premier and Minister for Economic Development and Tourism Ralph Klein signed today a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on international business development co-operation.

The agreement sets the course for closer co-operation between Ottawa and Alberta in services for Albertan exporters. It provides for greater collaboration in planning, information sharing, fairs and missions, education and training, representation abroad, investment promotion, and industry and technology development. It seeks to broaden the access of Alberta businesses to international markets, improve their export preparedness, strengthen their performance in foreign markets and ensure the effective promotion of Canada and Alberta for investment and business opportunities. It also establishes a process for business and government to work together on achieving their international business development objectives.

"As Canadians work toward more fiscally responsible government, services provided to our exporters by the federal and provincial governments need further co-ordination and rationalization. The agreement that we are signing today sets us squarely on this path. It commits us to work together to develop export readiness programs. It enhances our efforts to build a 'Trade Team Canada' approach to global markets," said Mr MacLaren.

"The 'Trade Team Canada' mission to China was a clear demonstration that our success in the global market grows when the federal and provincial governments join forces with the private sector," said Premier Klein. "This MOU gives Alberta businesses enhanced access to Canada's international offices and trade intelligence network, and it goes a long way to help us meet our export goals."



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