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## HOCKIN ANNOUNCES BEER AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, announced today that Canada and the United States have come to a final negotiated agreement in the long-standing dispute over provincial beer marketing practices. The agreement takes effect immediately.

"I am very pleased that we have finally come to a satisfactory resolution of this issue," Mr. Hockin said. "This agreement averts a beer war with the United States, it protects Canadian jobs, it provides new opportunities for Canadian beer companies, and will give wider choice to Canadian consumers."

"We have also effectively resolved the issues arising from a finding by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1991 that certain provincial practices relating to the pricing and distribution of beer were inconsistent with Canada's GATT obligations."

"This is a national agreement that provides a very positive result for all provinces," the Minister noted. "It reflects the input and political will by all parties, including the provinces and Canadian industry, to finally put an end to this prolonged dispute."

"However, just as we are opening our border to U.S. beer, we expect the United States to fulfil its obligations under the GATT and remove federal and state measures that discriminate against Canadian beer exports."

Canadian officials have been involved in intensive discussions with their U.S. counterparts over the past few months to resolve the dispute. In the course of the negotiations, the federal government worked very closely