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WILSON OUTLINES CANADA'S OBJECTIVES IN TALKS WITH U.S. AND MEXICO ON ENVIRONMENT, LABOUR

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, said Canada will pursue specific objectives and play a leading role in talks aimed at producing additional agreements on the environment and labour among Canada, the United States and Mexico as partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The talks begin March 17 and 18 in Washington.

"Canada played a leading role in negotiating strong environmental provisions in the NAFTA, and we will continue to do so in these discussions," Mr. Wilson said. "During the NAFTA negotiations, we also advocated establishing a trilateral forum to explore labour issues. We are pleased the United States and Mexico are now prepared to discuss a trilateral agreement in this area."

The Minister said Canada will pursue four basic objectives in talks leading to an additional agreement on the environment.

1. Canada will support the creation of -- and propose specific functions for -- a North American Commission on the Environment (NACE).
2. Canada will seek to strengthen environmental co-operation among Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.
3. Canada will promote sustainable development based on mutually supporting environmental and economic policies and practices.
4. Canada will favour increased co-operation on the development and enforcement of environmental regulations.

"We see a wide-ranging role for a North American Commission on the Environment," the Minister said. "Its functions might include harmonizing toward higher environmental standards, developing limits for specific pollutants, promoting