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CANADA - CHINA TRADE LINKS

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher, called today for closer economic ties between Canada and China. Speaking to the sixth annual general meeting of the Canada-China Trade Council, Mr. Kelleher announced a number of steps the federal government will take to increase our trade with China.

"We will be increasing resources both for our post in Beijing and our post in Hong Kong to cover China", the Minister said. Mr. Kelleher added that the government is considering ways and means of establishing a Canadian presence in Shanghai.

Mr. Kelleher said that the federal government is reviewing a wide range of export initiatives, the most important of which is the Program for Export Market Development (PEMD). He also announced that Canada will participate in the Asian Pacific Trade Fair to be held in Beijing in November of this year. The Minister said he and many of his fellow ministers hope to lead trade missions to the Peoples' Republic of China in the coming year.