

# News Release

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## PAKISTAN COMMERCE MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that the Honourable Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar, Minister for Commerce of Pakistan, will visit Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, November 1-8.

During his visit to Ottawa November 1 to 3, Mr. Mukhtar will meet with Mr. MacLaren and the Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), participate in a round table organized by the Conference Board of Canada and meet senior executives of the Export Development Corporation.

While in Toronto on November 6, Mr. Mukhtar will be the guest of honour at a luncheon hosted by the Canada-Pakistan Business Council. The following day, he will meet with the Honourable William Saunderson, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism of Ontario. His visit to Canada will end in Montreal on November 8 with meetings with Canadian business representatives.

"The economic reforms undertaken by successive Pakistan governments since 1989 have not gone unnoticed in Canada," said Mr. MacLaren. "Canadian companies have recognized the potential that now exists for exports of high-tech products and expertise and strategic alliances with Pakistan industry. Further economic reforms will generate additional interest amongst Canadians in this emerging market."

Two-way trade in 1994 between Canada and Pakistan amounted to \$260 million. In the last 12 months, Canadian companies have concluded sales worth over \$285 million in sectors liberalized by economic reform.

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