February 16, 1995

No. 29

## NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF TRADE AND SHIPPING TO VISIT CANADA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today announced the visit of Mrs. Grete Knudsen, Minister of Trade and Shipping of Norway, February 16 and 17, 1995.

While in Ottawa, Mrs. Knudsen, who is the current president of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), will meet with Mr. MacLaren and senior government officials. Discussions will involve strengthening bilateral economic and trade links and developing closer co-operation within the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other international fora.

"Norway is Canada's largest export market among the Nordic states. As strong as our trade relations are, they have potential to be even better, " Mr. MacLaren said.

Bilateral trade in 1993 totalled more than \$1.5 billion.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874