

On the first day, the ministers will identify areas of common interest and concern, and determine priorities for future co-operation in bilateral and multilateral spheres. Memoranda of understanding will be signed in the areas of housing, mining, distance learning and cultural co-operation.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will host a luncheon for the Mexican and Canadian ministers.

"The relationship between Canada and Mexico is a privileged and diverse one, and I am very pleased to welcome Foreign Minister Solana and his colleagues to Canada for this Ninth JMC Meeting," said Mrs. McDougall. "The JMC provides a unique forum for discussion of ways to manage our increasingly diverse relationship. This meeting will help us to cement our partnership in ways that will serve both of us well in the years ahead."

Mr. Wilson noted that the meeting will provide an important opportunity to review the process of the NAFTA implementation. "It will also allow us to consider ways to strengthen an already healthy bilateral trading relationship and build on existing and potential opportunities throughout the North American marketplace."

On February 16, individual programs are being arranged for a number of the ministers and their Mexican counterparts in various parts of the country. These programs will allow the ministers to focus on specific aspects of the bilateral relationship, as well as witness, first-hand, many of the concrete activities that give substance to the Canada-Mexico partnership.

- 30 -

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