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v. 23
November
1, 2005
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CANADEXPORT

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères

OCT 31 2005

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Volume 23 > Number 18
November 1, 2005

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Canada strengthens trade with Russia and Ukraine

Moscow, Russia > International Trade Minister Jim Peterson visited Moscow, Russia, and Kyiv, Ukraine, from October 11 to 15, to emphasize Canada's desire to strengthen trade with the two countries. Russia and Ukraine both have tremendous economic potential, and Minister Peterson took advantage of the visit to discuss ways of strengthening commercial ties and improving the business and investment environment for Canadian companies active in the region.

In Moscow, Minister Peterson announced that Canada will step up efforts to bring the Canada-Russia bilateral negotiations on Russia's accession to the World

Trade Organization (WTO) to a successful conclusion before the end of 2005.

"We should, we must and we will work toward an agreement on Russia's accession to the WTO by mid-December," said Minister Peterson. "We have asked negotiators to aggressively work together in areas where the most work remains to be done, including market access."

He also met with key Russian economic and trade ministers and attended the inaugural meeting of the Canada-Russia Business Council (CRBC). Canada-Russia bilateral trade has almost tripled over the past two years, with Canadian exports poised to exceed \$600 million this year and bilateral trade expected to surpass \$2 billion. Exports to Russia grew by 24% in 2004 and shot up an additional 47% in the first seven months of 2005, with most gains in machinery and food products.

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Canada's young professionals get a taste of global business

Young Professionals International (YPI) is an important part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy. Since 1997, the program has funded over 85 organizations that have found international, career-related work placements overseas for over 4,000 young Canadians under 30 with post-secondary degrees.

Canada's prosperity depends on more than sound domestic economic policies—it depends on the

ability of Canadians to succeed in an increasingly globalized business world. In the first eight years of operations, YPI has dedicated 1,500 placements to ensure that participants get the opportunities they need to develop critical international trade skills. These placements have covered a wide range of trade issues, including export development, environmental industries, information technology, market research,

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