



news release

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MACLAREN TO LEAD BUSINESS DELEGATION TO KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that he will lead a high-level business delegation to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, April 25-28. The visit will undertake to expand trade and commercial opportunities for Canadian companies seeking to do business in both countries.

Accompanying Mr. MacLaren will be representatives of Canadian companies with business interests in the region. The companies are Bombardier Regional Aircraft, Canadian Commercial Corporation, Delta Catalytic Corporation, Export Development Corporation, Monenco-Agra, Northern Telecom, Oerlikon Aerospace Inc., SNC-Lavalin International Inc., Saint John Shipbuilding Ltd. and Western Star Trucks.

Mr. MacLaren will hold discussions with the ministers of commerce in both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as other ministers responsible for key industry sectors of interest to the Canadian mission participants. In addition, Mr. MacLaren will meet with leading Saudi business people, including representatives of the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce. In Kuwait, Mr. MacLaren will call on the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as well as the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla Al-Sabah.

"Since the Gulf War, Canada and Kuwait have become important trading partners," Mr. MacLaren said. "Kuwait has growing interest in Canadian goods and services. Opportunities exist for Canadian firms in a number of sectors, including oil and gas, education, medical equipment, health care, telecommunications, security equipment, and consulting engineering services."

In the years preceding the Gulf War, Canadian exports to Kuwait averaged \$30 million. Actual Canadian exports of merchandise to Kuwait during 1991 and 1992 were at prewar levels. However, 1993 figures show a 24-percent increase over the previous year, reaching \$34 million. With continued promotional efforts by individual firms and Canadian government agencies, exports to Kuwait are expected to increase substantially in the immediate future.