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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRADE

The Minister of International Trade, the Honourable Ed Lumley, announced that he is meeting provincial Ministers of Trade in Ottawa on Tuesday, September 14 for consultations on the future course of Canadian trade policy and on preparations for the GATT Ministerial meeting which will take place in Geneva in November. This meeting stems from a decision taken in June to pursue discussions on key trade questions. Tuesday's meeting is also part of a series of consultations Mr. Lumley is undertaking with the provinces and with various interest groups in the private sector in Canada in connection with a major review of Canadian trade policy.

The Government has embarked on a detailed review of Canadian trade policy in order to provide a firm basis for the future conduct of Canada's trade relations, the pursuit of trade objectives, and Canadian participation in multilateral trade discussions. In addition to Tuesday's meeting with provincial trade ministers, meetings with various private sector groups and individuals have been arranged. Following these consultations, the Government will consider specific recommendations for trade policy in the 1980s.

Canada's Ambassador to the GATT, Mr. D.S. McPhail, who is Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Ministerial, is participating in the consultations.

In making this announcement, Mr. Lumley noted that "the meeting is indicative of the federal government's commitment to work closely with the Provinces to further Canada's trading interests."

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