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MACLAREN LEADS MAJOR TRADE MISSION TO INDIA AND VISITS BANGLADESH

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that he will visit the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh from October 8 to 15.

During his visit to India, Mr. MacLaren will be accompanied by a business delegation of over 40 participants. This mission will enable him to promote Canadian capabilities and to support the marketing efforts of numerous Canadian companies pursuing new opportunities in this market.

"India is one of the most promising markets in the Asia-Pacific region for Canadian business," said Mr. MacLaren. "Since 1991, the Indian economy has undergone vast economic reforms, which have substantially enhanced internal competition and foreign access to this market. As India proceeds with further reform, the opportunities for Canadian business will grow."

During his stay in New Delhi from October 8 to 11, Mr. MacLaren will meet with the Prime Minister of India, The Right Honourable Narashimha Rao, the Minister of Finance, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, and other senior ministers. He will open the Joint Business Council's (JBC) Indo-Canadian Joint Venture Conference, and will deliver a keynote address to a luncheon sponsored by the JBC and the Indo-Canadian Business Club.

Mr. MacLaren will also witness the signing of a \$6-million contract between Met-Chem Canada Inc. and the Uttar Pradesh State Mineral Development Corporation, and will visit the site of the Bank of Nova Scotia's new branch in New Delhi.

While in Bombay on October 12, Mr. MacLaren will meet the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, deliver a speech to local business people and attend the dedication of the new Bell Northern Research facility in Borivili, a suburb of Bombay.