

Trade plays a vital role in the Canadian economy and, as a member of the Quadrilateral group, it is important that Canada play its part in strengthening the multilateral trade system. Canada's commitment to reducing world trade problems is demonstrated by the high priority the government places on the need for Canada to participate in an ongoing series of meetings with international trade and economic ministers.

Following the Quadrilateral Meeting in Japan Miss Carney will continue onto Hong Kong to discuss a number of bilateral issues with government and business officials. The Minister will give a key address to the Hong Kong Canadian Chamber of Commerce which will promote products and services which Canadian exporters can provide to Hong Kong as well as highlight Canada's commitment to an open trading environment and to encourage foreign investment.

Hong Kong is an important trading partner for Canada with two-way trade reaching an all-time high in 1986 of over \$1.3 billion. The Minister's visit reinforces the importance Canada places on the Pacific Rim as a trading region under the National Trade Strategy.