



communiqué

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ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today the introduction into the House of Commons on May 31 of a Bill to establish the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada. This action symbolizes the Government's recognition of the vital importance of the trans-Pacific dimension of Canadian national interests.

The Bill will give effect to the government's undertaking in the Speech from the Throne last December to facilitate the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Foundation in order to enhance Canada's commitment to its role as a Pacific Rim nation.

The introduction of this Bill is a further stage in enhancing Canada's relationship with a region which was initially highlighted as an area of challenge and opportunity over a decade ago in "Foreign Policy for Canadians". A fundamental objective of the Foundation will be to nourish a greater sense of mutual awareness and understanding between Canada and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

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