
NEWS RELEASE

No. 31

February 11, 1993

CANADA HOSTS NINTH CANADA-MEXICO JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael Wilson, and several of their Cabinet colleagues will hold discussions with their Mexican counterparts on the growing Canada-Mexico relationship during the Ninth Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) Meeting, to be held in Ottawa February 15. Several Canadian ministers will accompany the visiting Mexican ministers to other Canadian cities on February 16.

This meeting comes at an important juncture in the relationship between Canada and Mexico when trade and other ties are increasing significantly. As the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is to go into force on January 1, 1994, the year that also marks the 50th anniversary of Canada-Mexico diplomatic relations, the meeting provides a timely opportunity to take stock of and foster the developing partnership between the two countries.

The JMC is a forum for consultations between ministers on matters of interest to both countries in the political, economic, commercial and other fields. The last JMC Meeting was held in Mexico City in November 1991 and was attended by Ministers McDougall, Wilson and the Minister of Agriculture of that time, the Honourable Bill McKnight, now Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Canadian ministers participating at this year's meeting will include, in addition to Mrs. McDougall, Mr. Wilson and Mr. McKnight, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, Minister of Communications; the Honourable John Crosbie, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans; the Honourable Charles Mayer, Minister of Agriculture; the Honourable Frank Oberle, Minister of Forestry; and, the Honourable Marcel Danis, Minister of Labour.