

News Release

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MACLAREN ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF NAFTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable Allan Rock, Minister of Justice, today announced the establishment by Canada, the United States and Mexico, of a joint Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes. The Committee was created under Article 2022 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The Committee is made up of individuals with experience in the resolution of private international commercial disputes. Its objective will be to examine existing commercial arbitration arrangements and other forms of alternative dispute resolution within NAFTA territory. The Committee will make recommendations on how the provisions for alternative dispute resolution could be expanded and improved.

Each of the NAFTA member countries can appoint up to two government officials to the Committee and up to eight non-government members. The two Canadian Co-Chairs are senior legal officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of Justice. The Canadian non-government members were chosen to provide a broad spectrum of individuals with expertise in commercial dispute resolution.

The first meeting of the Committee will take place on November 14 in Mexico City.

A list of the Canadian Members of the Committee is attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874



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