



news release

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McDOUGALL, WILSON AND McKNIGHT TO HOLD TALKS IN MEXICO

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 H. Wilson, and the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable William McKnight, will be in Mexico City November 25-26 for the Eighth Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) meeting.

Formally established in 1968, the JMC's objective is to provide a forum for consultations by Ministers on "matters of common interest to the two countries in the political as well as the economic and commercial fields" and on other matters, including cultural exchanges.

The Ministers will discuss ways and means to develop further links and co-operation in the fields of political, economic, scientific, technological, environmental and cultural endeavours.

"These meetings give us a good opportunity to assess and deepen our bilateral relationship with a key partner in Latin America," stated Mrs. McDougall, who will lead the Canadian delegation.

Mr. Wilson said the meeting will contribute to a stronger understanding of the kind of economic opportunities that exist for both Canada and Mexico in each other's markets. "The JMC will help Canada and Mexico explore the range of areas where greater trade and investment are possible," he added.

The Canadian trade minister noted that a clearer understanding of each country's trade and investment potential will help Canadian firms take advantage of a North American free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States when negotiations are concluded.

Mr. McKnight will hold discussions with his Mexican counterpart and with agricultural sector trade representatives, in order to evaluate possible avenues of increased exchanges and co-operation.

"This meeting provides a good occasion to promote the high standards of our Canadian agri-food industry, identify new markets and strengthen existing agricultural trade ties," indicated Mr. McKnight.

In conjunction with the JMC, a joint Mexico-Canada Forum on Technological Co-operation will be held, involving the private sector, universities and government, to exchange views and consider possibilities of future co-operation in a number of areas, such as telecommunications, forestry, marine products and pipeline technology.

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