



news release

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CANADIAN MINISTERS EXCHANGE VIEWS ON JOB CREATION WITH G-7 COUNTERPARTS

Human Resources Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy, International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, Industry Minister John Manley and Finance Minister Paul Martin will exchange views with fellow G-7 ministers on how to tackle unemployment and create jobs when they meet at the G-7 Jobs Conference in Detroit March 14 and 15.

The conference will enable ministers from the leading industrial countries to review the performance of their existing job creation programs, draw lessons from the successful programs of others and consider how recent experience in other G-7 countries can be adapted to specific national conditions.

The G-7 Detroit conference precedes the annual meeting of ministers of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris June 7 to 9 and the G-7 heads of government meeting in Naples July 8 to 10, both of which will further advance international understanding of effective methods to alleviate unemployment.

"The G-7 jobs conference provides a forum where we can explore options and share experiences about our efforts to overcome unemployment," Mr. Axworthy said. "What we learn may prove invaluable as we re-design our social programs to better equip people for today's workplace."

He said participation at the G-7 conference demonstrates a strong commitment on the part of Canada and its partners to tackling the problem of unemployment that confronts them in varying degrees.

Mr. MacLaren noted that the finalization in Marrakesh, Morocco on April 15 of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations will be a major contributor to growing international economic confidence following recent recessions that have afflicted all G-7 partners. "The wealth-generating effects of freer trade, clearer trade rules and the establishment of the World Trade Organization will encourage investment in new jobs. We will work

closely with the private sector to ensure that Canadian business, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), can take advantage of this more open trading environment," Mr. MacLaren said.

Mr. Manley said: "Canada's strategy for economic growth and job creation must focus on fostering innovation and seizing the opportunities of the new, ideas-based economy. We are paying special attention to small business because these firms hold the most potential for job creation." He added that he is looking forward to discussing the infrastructure needed for the new economy, including the "information highway."

Mr. Martin said that the recent federal budget took a balanced approach to controlling government debt and creating jobs. "Restoring fiscal responsibility is an integral part of economic renewal and job creation," he said. "At the same time, the Government's infrastructure program and support for small business, technological innovation and training are helping Canadians to find new jobs and build their futures."

The G-7 ministers will meet United States President Bill Clinton at the beginning of the conference. Mr. Axworthy said he welcomed the attention that the President has devoted to the employment issue, and the conference will be a constructive contribution to further examination of the issue at the G-7 leaders meeting in Naples in July.

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For further information, media representatives should contact:

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