

Minister of Industry,
Science and Technology and
Minister for International Trade



Ministre de l'Industrie, des
Sciences et de la Technologie et
ministre du Commerce extérieur

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MINISTER WILSON TO VISIT BALTIC STATES

Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, today released further details of his mission to the Baltic Republics.

Accompanied by Canadian business representatives with interests in the region, members of the Baltic-Canadian communities, and senior officials dealing with finance and technical assistance, Mr. Wilson will visit Vilnius, Lithuania, Sept. 2; Riga, Latvia, Sept. 3; and Tallinn, Estonia, Sept. 4.

"The Prime Minister has asked me to conduct a hard economic assessment of the situation in the Baltic States with a view to identifying areas where Canada can quickly and effectively provide assistance, through technology transfer, trade, investment and economic co-operation," Mr. Wilson said.

"The visit will also give effect to Monday's announcement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, that Canada is establishing diplomatic relations with the three countries."

Mr. Wilson noted that Canada has world-class expertise in sectors of particular interest to the Baltic States -- agriculture and food, telecommunications and electricity, light industry, infrastructure (railroads, ports and so on), engineering and tourism. Several joint ventures are already under way in these areas.

"Canada's strong cultural ties with the region will reinforce our assistance to the Baltic States as they make the difficult journey back to economic freedom," Mr. Wilson said. "I am certain we can make a real contribution."

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