



news release

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MACLAREN TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will lead a Canadian trade mission to South Africa, January 30 to February 3.

This visit is the first by a Canadian cabinet minister and the first high-level business mission since Canada lifted trade and financial sanctions in September 1993.

Mr. MacLaren's visit will highlight the strong potential for increased trade and investment between the two countries. He will be accompanied by representatives of Canadian companies from the manufacturing, high-technology and financial services sectors.

"The abolition of apartheid and the adoption of a non-racial, democratic constitution have created a climate favourable for growth in new business between Canada and South Africa," Mr. MacLaren said. "Through this trade mission we will seek to ensure that Canadians are actively engaged in the economic expansion that will accompany these important reforms."

Mr. MacLaren will be joined on February 1 by the Honourable Christine Stewart, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), and together they will meet leading figures from the South African government and democratic opposition.

The Minister's visit demonstrates that the Canadian government is strongly committed to the resumption of normal trade relations with South Africa. The official opening by Mr. MacLaren of Canada's new trade office in Johannesburg on January 31 will illustrate that commitment.

He will also speak to the South Africa-Canada Chamber of Business and meet other South African business leaders, including members of the black business community and experts involved in planning for reconstruction and development.

The Minister noted that Canada's trade sanctions against South Africa's previous apartheid regime resulted in loss of contact

and understanding between the two countries with respect to each other's economies and business climate.

"I want to make South Africa's business and government aware of the significant potential for trade between our two countries, particularly in the area of high technology, manufactured products and business services, in which Canada has developed a particular expertise," he said.

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