News Release

Communiqué

Minister for International Trade



Ministre du Commerce extérieur

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TO COMPANIES ACROSS CANADA

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced InfoTech '89, an 11-city tour of External Affairs Technology Development Officers who will advise Canadian business of the latest developments in world technology.

The 18 officers, based in our posts in the U.S., Europe, and Asia/Pacific countries, will hold private meetings March 1 to 9 with representatives from small and medium-sized companies who are keen to boost their businesses' productivity and profits by using technology not yet available in this country. More than 1,000 interviews between External Affairs technology experts and company executives will take place during the nine-day coast-to-coast tour.

"Canada produces only two percent of the world's technology," said Mr. Crosbie. "For our companies to remain competitive at home and abroad, they need to be aware of the latest technologies being developed in their fields. InfoTech '89 ensures that our business people remain strong competitors in the technology race worldwide."

The InfoTech '89 tour is part of the Department of External Affairs Technology Inflow Program (TIP) inaugurated in 1986. The program helps companies without their own R and D capabilities obtain modern technology and production methods. Last year some 300 technology acquisition projects, more than half of them involving smaller businesses, were assisted by TIP.

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Medicine, food production and processing, computer science, aquaculture, mineral processing, construction contracting, air traffic control and computer assisted design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) have benefited from advice or funding from TIP.

InfoTech '89 dates and cities are as follows:

March 1: Vancouver March 7: Montreal March 2:

Calgary March 8: Halifax Edmonton Moncton

March 3: Saskatoon March 9: Charlottetown Winnipeg

St. John's

March 6: **Toronto**

For referral to the local registering organization, call INFO EXPORT toll free at 1-800-267-8376.

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For local media enquiries on the program contact:

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Edmonton: Andrew Gilliland, (403) 450-5221 Saskatoon: Gary Derdall, (306) 975-4714 Winnipeg: Roger Clarke, (204) 945-6133

Toronto: Ted Sipos, (416) 296-8932 Montreal: Henri Mongeon, (514) 283-0345 Halifax: David Healey, (902) 426-6264

Moncton: Robert Bourdage, (506) 452-3831 Charlottetown: William Murphy, (902) 566-7642

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