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news release

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MACLAREN LEADS MAJOR TRADE MISSION TO INDIA AND VISITS BANGLADESH

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that he will visit the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh from October 8 to 15.

During his visit to India, Mr. MacLaren will be accompanied by a business delegation of over 40 participants. This mission will enable him to promote Canadian capabilities and to support the marketing efforts of numerous Canadian companies pursuing new opportunities in this market.

"India is one of the most promising markets in the Asia-Pacific region for Canadian business," said Mr. MacLaren. "Since 1991, the Indian economy has undergone vast economic reforms, which have substantially enhanced internal competition and foreign access to this market. As India proceeds with further reform, the opportunities for Canadian business will grow."

During his stay in New Delhi from October 8 to 11, Mr. MacLaren will meet with the Prime Minister of India, The Right Honourable Narashimha Rao, the Minister of Finance, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, and other senior ministers. He will open the Joint Business Council's (JBC) Indo-Canadian Joint Venture Conference, and will deliver a keynote address to a luncheon sponsored by the JBC and the Indo-Canadian Business Club.

Mr. MacLaren will also witness the signing of a \$6-million contract between Met-Chem Canada Inc. and the Uttar Pradesh State Mineral Development Corporation, and will visit the site of the Bank of Nova Scotia's new branch in New Delhi.

While in Bombay on October 12, Mr. MacLaren will meet the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, deliver a speech to local business people and attend the dedication of the new Bell Northern Research facility in Borivili, a suburb of Bombay.

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Mr. MacLaren will conclude his South Asian visit in Bangladesh on October 15, where he will meet with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the Right Honourable Khaleda Zia, and other members of the Cabinet. The visit to Dhaka is in support of Canadian companies pursuing business opportunities there.

A list of Canadian companies and associations participating in the Minister's program is attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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

LIST OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

Acres International Ltd. Niagara Falls, Ontario

AGRA Industries Ltd. Mississauga, Ontario

Agri Tec Canada Inc. Winnipeg, Manitoba

Association of Canadian Community Colleges Ottawa, Ontario

B.C. Hydro International Ltd. Vancouver, British Columbia

Bank of Nova Scotia Toronto, Ontario

Beament Green Dust Ottawa, Ontario

Bell Canada International Inc. Montreal, Quebec

Bell Northern Research Ottawa, Ontario

Bombardier Regional Aircraft Division Downsview, Ontario

Canac/Microtel Coquitlam, British Columbia

Canada Steamship Lines Inc. Montreal, Quebec

Canada-India Business Council Ottawa, Ontario

Canadian Commercial Corporation Ottawa, Ontario

CanAm Industries Vancouver, British Columbia

Cancoil Thermal Corporation Kingston, Ontario DNV Trade & Tech. Corp. Don Mills, Ontario

Export Development Corporation Ottawa, Ontario

Foundation Company of Canada Ltd. Scarborough, Ontario

GEC Alsthom Electro-Mechanique Inc. Tracy, Quebec

HIR International Ltd. Winnipeg, Manitoba

Info-Electronics Systems Inc. Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec

Met-Chem Canada Inc. Montreal, Quebec

Mitel Corporation Kanata, Ontario

N.D. Lea International Ltd. North York, Ontario

Niko Resources Ltd. Calgary, Alberta

NovAtel Communications Ltd. Calgary, Alberta

Paul L. Wilkinson & Associates Montreal, Quebec

Plitron Manufacturing Inc. Downsview, Ontario

Quester Tangent Corp. Sidney, British Columbia

Ram-Par Industries Ltd. North Vancouver, British Columbia

Rousseau Sauvé Warren Inc. Montreal, Quebec S.R. Roessler Associates Ltd. Ottawa, Ontario

Security Information Systems Brampton, Ontario

Sinclair Radio Laboratories Ltd. Aurora, Ontario

SNC-Lavalin International Inc. Montreal, Quebec

Spar Aerospace Ltd. Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec

Statpower Technologies Corporation Burnaby, British Columbia

Tele-Direct (Publications) Inc. Montreal, Quebec

Teleglobe Cable Systems Montreal, Quebec

The Delphi Group Ottawa, Ontario

The Electrolyser Corporation Ltd. Etobicoke, Ontario

TransAlta Utilities Corp. Calgary, Alberta

Universal Paper Export Co. Ltd. Montreal, Quebec

Wardrop Engineering Inc. Winnipeg, Manitoba