



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

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RELEASE OF A LETTER  
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OECD  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, tabled today in the House of Commons a letter from Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau to Mr. Emile van Lennep, Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Organization.

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The letter is attached.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, it is an honour and a pleasure for me, on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the OECD in fostering international economic cooperation not only between Canada and other member states, but also between all states around the world.

The growth of the OECD, in the twenty years since its foundation, to twenty-four members from Western Europe, North America and the Pacific, is a testimony to the continuing attraction of the OECD ideal and the Organization's record in the attainment of its objectives. This ideal, seeking to promote world prosperity through the cooperation of a group of countries with certain shared basic perceptions of their economies and societies, has enabled our different social, economic and cultural structures to contribute to a broader global perspective and stimulate the spirit of cooperation.

Though our member countries also belong to other international bodies, the broad forum at the OECD, where we can meet to discuss issues with like-minded partners, remains essential. Here we can consider in a trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific framework, not only today's overriding economic problems, but also those more technical issues so important to the quality of life of present and future generations.

We look to the Organization for leadership and inspiration in the difficult times that lie ahead. Control of inflation, economic recovery and adjustment to new circumstances, and the fight against protectionism will be impossible for individual governments alone to sustain. Together, however, we can work to meet these difficult challenges.

The realities of global interdependence will require increasing attention to the North-South dimension of international economic relations over the coming months. I am conscious of what the OECD has already done to promote economic development and better understanding of the problems of developing countries. In order, however, that the OECD countries continue to play their full part at this critical stage in the development of the world economy, it will be important to encourage analysis by the Secretariat and greater discussion among member countries.

I take this opportunity to reiterate Canada's determination to work in full cooperation with the other member countries, with yourself and the Secretariat. As the first of the signatory states to ratify the Convention of the OECD, Canada is proud to be associated with the other member countries in the work of the Organization. I would like to acknowledge in particular the dedication which you yourself and the Secretariat as a whole have demonstrated in the advancement of our objectives. I am confident that the high quality which has characterized the performance of the OECD over the past two decades will be fully maintained in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

P.E. Trudeau