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MINISTER ANNOUNCES AWARDS PROGRAM FOR EXPORTERS

OTTAWA -- As his last official act as Minister for International Trade and with the concurrence of his successor the Hon. Gerald Regan, Trade Minister Ed Lumley announced today the establishment of an Awards program which will recognize outstanding achievement by Canadian exporters.

This announcement followed the anniversary meeting of the first year of operation of the Export Trade Development Board. The Board held seven meetings in its first year of operation in several cities across Canada. The first annual report will soon be released.

The Minister also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Roger Hatch, Chairman of the Board, and to all Board members for their valuable advice over the past year. Mr. Lumley stated that he strongly supports the work of the Board and looks forward to its continued involvement in the debate of Canada's Development and Policy issues.

"The Awards program recommended by the Board will be our way of acknowledging the import role played by the Canadian exporters in the Canadian economy. How well Canada does in exporting substantially affects the economic and indeed the social well-being of the country."

"Outstanding achievements by Canadian firms which break into new markets, make substantial increases in their level of exports or successfully introduce new export products, should be recognized and acclaimed. The purpose of the Award is to publicize the positive and substantial contributions that exports make to the Canadian economy and to provide public recognition for export efforts", the Minister said.

A five-person committee of distinguished Canadians will recommend (from nominations & applications) candidates for the awards. It is expected that the first export awards candidates will be selected early in the new year, with the winners to be announced in the Spring.

The basic government Award will be a plaque giving the citations. Details of the Award guidelines, etc. will be announced at the Canadian Export Association annual meeting.