



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
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MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE
COMPLETES BILATERAL VISIT TO JAPAN,
NOVEMBER 22-28, 1986

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, returned to Canada on November 28 after a five day official visit to Japan to promote investment, market access for Canadian products and discuss multilateral trade issues. Miss Carney reviewed for ministers of the Japanese Government the new Canadian strategy for Japan which was announced on November 24. The plan of action promotes co-ordinated bilateral, political, economic and technological co-operation between government, industry and institutions.

Miss Carney stressed Canada's interest in the revision of the Japanese building code following on Prime Minister Mulroney's discussions last May with Prime Minister Nakasone who expressed "his intention to amend the building code in the near future". The Minister of Construction gave assurances that height limitations on three storey timber-frame single family dwellings will soon be lifted. Minister Carney emphasized the importance of further revisions to allow timberframe to be used for three storey multifamily buildings, the fastest growing market segment. Canada will provide the Ministry of Construction with technical expertise and data on fire and safety standards for timberframe construction with a view to assisting in the review. Miss Carney said, "Our aim is to help Canadian lumber sales and Japan's housing shortage by expansion of superior, lower cost, 2 x 4 housing.

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In all meetings with Japanese ministers, Miss Carney pressed for the removal of the tariff on spruce-pine-fir (SPF) lumber which disadvantages Canadian exporters competing with comparable species entering Japan duty free. Lumber sales to Japan in 1985 were valued at \$401 million, the second largest market for Canadian lumber after the U.S.A.

Miss Carney met with Mr. Kanao, the leader of the recent Japanese Economic Mission to Canada, and addressed business leaders in Tokyo and Osaka on Canadian investment opportunities. The Kanao Mission's "discovery of a new Canada" of economic growth and high technology is spurring a positive interest among Japanese investors. The Minister welcomed recent automobile manufacturing investment and encouraged auto parts suppliers and other industrial sectors to follow.

The Minister supported Canadian coal exports in meetings with Japanese ministers and steel mill executives to ensure that market share is maintained at reasonable price levels. Canada sold \$1.4 billion of coal to Japan in 1985. Speaking in Osaka on natural resource exports, Miss Carney stated, "We will continue to be reliable, secure and competitive suppliers of these commodities. Canadians have invested heavily in this long term relationship. We are determined to remain a significant factor in your marketplace."

Throughout her visit Miss Carney was accompanied by a Canadian delegation of business and labour representatives drawn from those sectors of the Canadian economy with important and ongoing interests in Japan.