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# news release

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## CANADIAN DELEGATION TO OECD MEETING IN PARIS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will lead the Canadian delegation to the annual ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, June 7 and 8. Minister of Human Resources Development Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren will also attend the meeting.

The OECD ministerial meeting provides an opportunity for member countries to consult on the leading issues of international economic relations. This year, the key agenda item is growth and employment. The OECD is expected to release the results of a two-year study on employment in industrialized countries. Other issues to be discussed include multilateral trade in the Uruguay Round and the OECD's outreach program with non-member countries. While in Paris, the Canadian ministers will also undertake a range of bilateral meetings with their counterparts from other OECD member countries.

The OECD comprises 25 industrialized countries (Western European countries, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and Japan) that together account for over two-thirds of global output. Its secretariat provides an impartial analysis of economic issues, which the member states use as the factual basis for their deliberations, and which helps to enlighten the public on economic policy issues. The OECD publishes a significant number of studies and generates benchmark, internationally-used statistics. The OECD's agenda currently includes the issues of unemployment, structural imbalance, protectionism, the evolving world financial system, technological change, environmental concerns, and the transformation of the former Soviet Union and Central/Eastern Europe. Canada has played an active role in the OECD since its inception in 1961.

Mr. Ouellet will travel directly from the OECD meeting to the NATO ministerial meeting in Istanbul to be held June 9 and 10. Prior to the OECD meeting, Mr. MacLaren will meet with the Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels after which he will chair the closing session of the France-Canada Joint Economic Commission.

- 30 -

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