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MINISTER WILSON OPENS TRADE OFFICE IN FUKUOKA, JAPAN

Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, today opened the new Canadian Consulate in Fukuoka, Japan. Mr. Pierre Delorme who has been posted in Japan for a total of six years, has been appointed Trade Commissioner and Consul for the office, which will focus on trade and economic relations.

The Consulate in Fukuoka is part of Canada's strategy to expand its presence in Japan. Minister Wilson is currently in Japan with 12 senior business representatives from Canada and has been joined by six others based in Japan. These companies represent a variety of industries, including fish and food products, auto parts, machinery and equipment, tourism, and building products and housing.

These business leaders have been exploring opportunities not just in Tokyo, but also in Sapporo, Sendai, Nagoya, Hiroshima and Osaka, as part of the Canadian government's effort to introduce exporters to the regional markets outside Tokyo.

"There is an abundance of opportunity for Canadian exporters in the regions outside of Tokyo," said Mr. Wilson. "Fukuoka is the largest city in Japan's Kyushu region and was the destination of some \$300 million worth of Canadian exports in 1989." Kyushu imported \$700 million worth of goods from Canada that year -- mainly coal, lumber, wheat and canola. Total two-way trade between Canada and Japan last year was valued at \$17.7 billion.

Canada will continue its strategy for regional market expansion next year with the planned opening of another trade office in Nagoya. A Consulate General in Osaka has been in operation since 1986. In addition, three Honorary Commercial Representatives have been appointed this year in Hiroshima, Sendai and Sapporo.

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