



For Immediate Release

**Member of Parliament Dr. Ruby Dhalla invited to attend Trade Mission to India**

Ottawa-The Government of Canada has announced a Trade mission to India, which will be led by Hon. Minister of international trade Mr. James Scott Peterson.

As a Member of Parliament for a constituency which boasts one of the largest South Asian demographics in the nation, Dr. Dhalla has been invited to attend this trade mission to help strengthen Canada's ties and trade relations with India.

The mission is intended to help position Canada more strategically within global and regional markets, which India is dramatically reshaping. India offers significant opportunities for Canadian trade and investment in the agriculture and financial services sectors, and in infrastructure, specifically in the areas of transportation, energy and information and communication technologies.

In addition, during his visit to India in January, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced Canada's intent to conclude an S&T arrangement with India and encouraged strategic collaboration in science and industrial technologies. Therefore, the mission will also focus on fostering S&T collaborations.

Canadian merchandise exports to India reached a record high of \$764.4 million in 2003, a 13.4% increase over the previous year. India is expected to double its investment in science and technology (S&T) over the next 10 years, to \$8.25 billion. With last year's economy growing at a rate of more than 8.2% and a burgeoning middle class of up to 250 million well-educated and professional people, India is the place to be for Canadian businesses and for the S&T community.

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