



The Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) Congratulates Canada's New Minister of International Trade, François Philippe-Champagne

Singapore – January 23, 2017

The Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) extends its congratulations to François Philippe-Champagne on his appointment as Canada's new Minister of International Trade. The CABC greatly looks forward to working with Minister Champagne in his new role.

The move, announced following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet shuffle on January 10th, places Philippe-Champagne at the head of Canada's international trade portfolio, replacing Minister Chrystia Freeland who has been appointed Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Canada-ASEAN 12-month bilateral trade reached CAD \$21.48 billion in August 2016, an increase of 3.08% y/o/y, with the region remaining as Canada's sixth most important trading partner. The Government of Canada's movement towards a formal trade agreement (FTA) with ASEAN began in August last year, with the tasking of senior ASEAN officials to frame FTA discussions with Canada at the [5th Canada-ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting](#) in Laos.

The [2016 Canada-ASEAN Business Outlook Survey](#), a joint initiative by the CABC and the University of British Columbia, showed Canadians to be overwhelmingly positive about their trading prospects in ASEAN, with 94% indicating a sense of optimism about their company's future in the region.

"With the TPP's prospects diminished, Canada faces a critical moment in its economic engagement with ASEAN" remarked CABC President Wayne Farmer. "In the last year Canada has made great strides in its trading relationship with ASEAN, particularly with the move towards a formal Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement, and we are excited to build on this momentum by working closely with Minister Champagne and his team".

2017 also marks the 40th anniversary of Canada-ASEAN diplomatic relations – an occasion which will highlight the increasing relevance of the 10-member ASEAN bloc to Canada's economic, political, and cultural interests.

As "the voice" of the Canadian private sector in ASEAN, the CABC is supporting the Government of Canada's efforts to advance trade relations with ASEAN via a formal report on the economic impact of a Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement, in collaboration with the University of British Columbia (UBC), the Business Council of Canada (BCC), and the Asia Pacific Foundation (APF). The CABC looks forward to releasing the results of the report in March 2017.

About the Canada ASEAN Business Council

Founded in 2012 at the first ASEAN-Canada Economic Ministers Meeting in Cambodia, the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) is the preeminent Canadian organization with an ASEAN region-wide mandate to promote trade and increase trade relations between Canadian and ASEAN businesses. The CABC provides high-level networking opportunities, region-specific market intelligence and research, and targeted events to help its members grow their business in ASEAN.

For Further Information, please contact:

Wayne C. Farmer, President president@canasean.com

Greg Ross, Executive Director greg.ross@canasean.com

Andrew Doherty, Canada Director andrew.doherty@canasean.com

Canada-ASEAN Business Council

60 Paya Lebar Road, #07-54

Singapore 409051

+65 6908 8292

Visit CABC at www.canasean.com



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