

Canadian Chamber applauds Government of Canada's Efforts to Fight 'Buy American'

Ottawa, August 24, 2009: The Canadian Chamber of Commerce applauded the leadership shown by Prime Minister Harper and the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, and expressed its support to Canada's government for putting forward an offer to the United States seeking a waiver from 'Buy American' for Canadian companies and to open local procurement markets to companies from both countries. This week, Minister Day contacted his U.S. counterpart, Ambassador Kirk, to say that Canada's provinces and territories agreed to an offer to lock-in U.S. access to Canada's procurement markets in exchange for pre-stimulus access to the United States.

"The joint effort by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments is a first step to securing Canadian companies' access to the U.S. market now and in the future. We now need to move urgently at the highest level to reach agreement between Canada and the United States. Jobs are on the line in both countries," said Perrin Beatty, the Canadian Chamber's President and CEO.

The 'Buy American' provisions in the U.S. stimulus package have blocked Canadian companies from bidding on billions of dollars worth of state and municipal public procurement projects.

The Canadian Chamber supports a rules-based procurement deal with the United States to keep markets open. With \$1.6 billion in daily two-way trade and 7 million U.S. jobs and 3 million in Canada derived from the Canada-U.S. partnership, both countries need to work together to come out of the current economic downturn stronger and more competitive. The agreement put forward by the Canadian government will create jobs, get stimulus money moving, and speed up the recovery.

"We all gain from vibrant and open competition that result in best products and prices. We need to keep our borders open and make sure taxpayers in both countries get the very best value for every dollar" noted Beatty.

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Contact:
Kathryn Anderson
Director, Communications and Marketing
Office: 613.238.4000 ext. 231
Cell: 613.797.1860
kanderson@chamber.ca