



Business Opportunities in Canada

From Consulate-General of India, Toronto, Canada

Number 11/2011

November 1, 2011

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CANADIAN ECONOMY

Minister of International Trade Ed Fast Announces Expanded Air Transport Agreement between Canada and Japan

Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, Ed Fast, on a recent trade visit to Japan announced an expanded air transport agreement between Canada and Japan, which will help deepen Canada's important trade and investment relationship with Japan and benefit air travelers, workers and businesses. He also announced an agreement to enhance cooperation between Canada and Japan's science and technology sectors. Source: Foreign Affairs & International Trade

Minister of International Trade Ed Fast adopts Joint Declaration of Cooperation with ASEAN

Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, Ed Fast, aimed to deepen Canada's economic ties with Southeast Asia by adopting a joint declaration of cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) during an official visit to Indonesia recently. He said the joint declaration was the first trade and investment framework with ASEAN. The joint declaration calls for further cooperation among governments and businesses and represents a commitment by Canada and the ASEAN countries to explore other ways to deepen economic ties.

Source: Foreign Affairs & International Trade

Federal Government launches New Strategy to strengthen Canada's Tourism Advantage (North Vancouver, British Columbia)

On October 6, on behalf of the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), Andrew Saxton, Member of Parliament for North Vancouver, helped celebrate the launch of Canada's Federal Tourism Strategy at an event at Capilano Suspension Bridge. The Strategy was developed to help position Canada's tourism sector for long-term growth and global competitiveness, and it focuses on improving coordination among the numerous federal partners that support the economy. "The Federal Tourism Strategy provides the scope and direction to help industry take advantage of this growth opportunity, increase tourism revenues and create jobs in all regions of Canada," said Minister of State Bernier. The Federal Tourism Strategy formalizes a whole-of-government initiative that will better align the tourism activities of some 15 federal departments and agencies. It is a long-term strategy to bring greater coherence to the policies and programs that support tourism. Source: Industry Canada

PM announces completion of Peterborough airport expansion

On October 14, 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper marked the expansion of the Peterborough Municipal Airport. "Our Government is proud to have contributed to the expansion of the Peterborough Municipal Airport through Canada's Economic Action Plan. In addition to the construction jobs that it generated, this project will continue to spur economic growth in the city and region for years to come including through the development of the local aeronautics sector", he said. The expansion, which includes improvements to exterior infrastructure and interior commercial areas, will enable the Peterborough Municipal Airport to accommodate future growth and to take advantage of emerging aviation growth sectors. It will also help attract new businesses to the region. The Government of Canada is contributing close to one third of the total eligible costs through the Economic Action Plan's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF).

Source: Prime Minister's Office Press Release

PM opens new facilities at Northern Lights College

On October 15, 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited the Northern Lights College where he officially opened the institution's new Centre of Excellence for Clean Energy Technology and newly refurbished Health Sciences Building. Funded through Canada's

Economic Action Plan, the facilities will enable the college to train additional students in the fields of health care and clean energy. “Our Government is committed to creating jobs by providing youth with the tools and the training they need to succeed in tomorrow’s economy,” said the Prime Minister. “The new facilities being opened will help address the growing national demand for nurses and provide trained professionals to help drive Canada’s burgeoning clean energy industry.” Source: Prime Minister’s Office Press Release

Minister of State Bernier Announces Funding to support Young Entrepreneurs

On October 18, 2011, The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), announced that the Government of Canada was investing \$20 million in funding over two years to enable the Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) to continue its important support to young entrepreneurs. "The Government of Canada is committed to supporting young entrepreneurs as they are vital to Canada's economic growth," said Minister of State Bernier. "This investment will help kick-start an estimated 1,000 new businesses in Canada over the next two years." The \$20-million investment was provided through Budget 2011, The Next Phase of Canada’s Economic Action Plan—A Low-Tax Plan for Jobs and Growth. Small businesses are a key driver of Canada's economy, accounting for about 98 percent of all business establishments in the country and about two-thirds of the private sector workforce.

Source: Industry Canada

Minister Paradis Reintroduces Bill to Remove Barriers to Interprovincial Trade

On October 6, 2011, the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry, reintroduced the Improving Trade Within Canada Act (ITCA), designed to implement enhancements to the resolution process for government-to-government disputes under the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). "Strengthening Canada's economic union is a priority for the Government since it is essential to achieving our full national potential," said Minister Paradis. "Through this legislation, we will ensure accountability for compliance with the Agreement on Internal Trade."The ITCA is consistent with the Government of Canada's internal trade priorities and AIT amendments made by the federal-provincial-territorial Committee on Internal Trade in October 2009. Non-compliance with AIT obligations could result in financial penalties of up to \$5 million for the Government and the larger provinces. Source: Industry Canada

Federal deficit narrows in August

Canada’s budget deficit declined in August as a jump in corporate tax income and higher employment insurance premiums helped lift revenues, while program spending declined as the government wound down its stimulus program. The shortfall for the month amounted to \$3.64-billion, down from \$5.81-billion in August 2010, with revenues rising \$700-million, or 4.1%, from the same month last year to \$17.9-billion, the Finance Department said. The increase in revenues came mainly from corporate taxes, which brought in \$1.59-billion, up \$400-million, or 35.4%, and personal income tax income, which rose \$100-million, or 0.8%, to \$9.21-billion. Income from EI premiums was up \$100-million, or 6.3%, to \$6.3-billion. The Finance Department said August program spending including transfer payments and other expenses was down \$1.3-billion, or

6.2%, from a year earlier to \$19.2-billion. The drop in spending reflected “declines across a number of departments, including a decline in infrastructure transfers, consistent with the wind-down of Canada’s Economic Action Plan,” the department said. Source: Financial Post

Canadian salaries on the rise

Canadian workers will see their salaries increase again next year, according to new projections. The Conference Board of Canada said the average non-unionized worker can expect a increase in their base pay of 3.1% in 2012, this follows a 3% increase in 2011 and a 2.7% increase in 2010. Anticipated wage increases for unionized employees are projected to be 2% in 2012, 1.5% in the public sector and 2.3% in the private sector. “However, salary increases have not yet returned to pre-recession levels,” the board noted in a statement, pointing to the average 4.2% wage increase Canadians received in 2008. Karla Thorpe, Director, Leadership and Human Resources Research for the board, said the global economic uncertainty is keeping employers in this country “guarded.” The board said the highest salary increases are expected in Saskatchewan at 3.9% and Alberta at 3.6%. The lowest base-pay increases are projected to occur in Ontario and Atlantic Canada, whose workers can expect gains of 2.7% next year, the board said.

Source: Financial Post

Forbes Magazine ranks Canada the World's Best Place to do Business

Forbes magazine ranks Canada #1 in its recently released list of "Best Countries for Business". The ranking is based on a range of metrics such as tax burden, investor protection, trade and monetary freedom, innovation, and red tape and corruption. Canada was the only country that ranked in the top 20 in 10 of the 11 metrics used to create the rankings. Canada leads business globally, and Ontario is Canada's hub for global business. Ontario is home to 58% of all foreign-controlled Canadian head offices operating in Canada. The world’s leading companies in the automotive industry, life sciences, telecommunications and financial services have invested billions to start or expand their operations in Ontario. Forbes lauds Canada's tax policies, especially, as a key factor of the country's success: "Credit a reformed tax structure with a Harmonized Sales Tax introduced in Ontario and British Columbia in 2010. Source: Invest Ontario Press Release

‘Confusing quarter’ for Canadian M&A: PwC

Mining “mega deals” were down, pension funds propped up the market and deal volumes slowed compared to earlier this year. But third-quarter Canadian merger and acquisition activity was up slightly compared to the same period in 2010, according to a report from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). “It was a confusing quarter. Some signs pointed to a slowing Canadian deal market while others suggested that Canadian M&A was defying gravity,” said the report’s authors Vanessa Iarocci and Bradley Romain. There were 756 deals worth \$50.7-billion announced in the quarter, an 8% jump in deal volume and a 1% increase in total value compared to Q3 2010. This is a slip from the second quarter of 2011, which enjoyed 836 Canadian M&A announcements worth close to \$57-billion, PwC said. Plus, spending in the quarter was largely held up by pension funds and big financial institutions. Source: Financial Post

Alberta to be 'aggressive' in defending oil sands: Premier

Alberta's newly elected Premier, Alison Redford, said she will be "very bold" in defending the oil sands internationally so that the province has better chance of influencing policies like the EU's proposed ranking of fuels. "[I will be] more aggressive, more proactive, more strategic," she said. "This is a file that is critical to the future economic development of Alberta [that is] what allows all of us in Alberta to continue to have the quality of life that we have." The Premier said a letter from the province to the EU voicing "grave concerns" about its new fuels quality directive is part of her strategy to be more proactive and to put Alberta's position on the record. "There is no doubt that once these decisions have been made and we start to see the issues come through, it's almost too late for us," she said at a joint press conference with her counterpart in British Columbia, Christy Clark. Source: Financial Post

Innovation Cities Index 2011: Toronto named among 10 Most Innovative Cities in the World

A list of the world's most innovative cities places Toronto in the top 10, a sign the city continues to be a vibrant economic centre despite the financial problems of recent years. Toronto placed tenth in a ranking of 331 benchmark cities from 2thinknow, a Melbourne, Australia-based consultancy. Boston placed first on the list, while two other U.S. cities: San Francisco (second) and New York (fourth) were also placed in the top 10. The remaining top 10 cities were all in Europe -- Paris (third), Vienna (fifth), Amsterdam (sixth), Munich (seventh), Lyon (eighth) and Copenhagen (ninth). 2thinknow's index is based on 162 indicators that the consultancy groups into three general categories: cultural assets (arts, sports franchises); human infrastructure (startup companies, health, education); and networked markets: the city's access to and role within the global economy. Four Canadian cities made the top 100, but only Montreal, at 31st place, was listed along with Toronto as a "nexus" city, one of 33 urban areas that are at the heart of the global economy. Source: Huffington Post

Canadian Dollar rising in comparison to US Dollar

The Canadian dollar has been trading below parity in comparison with the US Dollar during October. It closed at 1.00 US dollar on October 31st 2011. Source: Bank of Canada

INDIA - CANADA

DRDO delegation visited Canada

Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Secretary Defence (R&D) led a 5 member delegation to Canada from 10-15 October, 2011 for signing an MoU and to participate in the workshop entitled "Canada –India Frontiers in Environmental Monitoring and Health Informatics 2011" at the Faculty of Science and Engineering, York University, Toronto. The delegation participated in an evening session organized by the Canada India Foundation on October 10th. The delegation also visited Ottawa and Montreal.

University of Toronto launches India Innovation Institute

The India Innovation Institute at the University of Toronto – a joint venture of the Munk School of Global Affairs and the Rotman School of Management was launched on October 5th. Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Former Under Secretary General of the United Nations and current member of the Lok Sabha Shashi spoke on the topic “Innovation in India.” “The India Innovation Institute is designed to be a hub for researchers across the university and around the world,” said Professor Janice Stein, Director of the Munk School which will house the institute. In addition to helping U of T researchers engage with colleagues in India and around the world, The India Innovation Institute will foster new, multidisciplinary collaborations. Professor Dilip Soman, Corus Chair in Communications Strategy and a professor of marketing at Rotman, will be the institute’s inaugural director. Source: University of Toronto Media Relations

Commerce Secretary leads delegation to Toronto for the “India Show”

Dr. Rahul Khullar, Commerce Secretary, inaugurated the “India Show” at the Canadian Manufacturing and Technology Show from October 17th- 20th. He was accompanied by Mr. Anup Wadhawan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Chief Negotiator for the CEPA talks. Under the auspices of EEPC, formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council, 154 SMEs, primarily from the engineering manufacturing sector, showcased their products and capabilities during the exhibition. The delegation comprised of members of the Engineering Export Promotion Council was spearheaded by their Chariman, Mr. Aman Chadha. An “India Evening” was organized on October 17th which included performances by Ms. Sonam Kalra and Ms. Sharmishtha Mukherjee and their groups. During his visit Dr. Rahul Khullar delivered key note addresses at the Canada India Business Council and at the C.D. Howe Institute. He participated in a round table session at The Munk School of Global Affairs. He also met with Deputy Minister, Ms. Wendy Tilford, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry for Economic Development and Trade.

Jharkhand Chief Minister leads delegation to Canada

Mr. Arjun Munda, Hon’ble Chief Minister of the Indian Province of Jharkhand, led an 8-member high powered delegation to Canada from October 18- 21 for participation in the “India Show” at the Canadian Manufacturing and Technology Show. In Toronto Hon’ble Mr. Arjun Munda delivered a keynote address at a session attended by prominent Indo-Canadian businessmen, organized by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. A site visit to a mine in Sudbury was also organized for the delegation.

India, Canada look for ways to foster trade

Canada's trade with India is growing in real terms but sliding in market share, said India's Commerce Secretary. “While trade between the two countries has grown between 15 and 20 per cent a year, India's trade with the rest of the world is growing at 40 to 50 per cent,” Dr. Rahul Khullar told delegates to a week-long engineering show at the Direct Energy Centre on October 17th. “That's what our prime ministers are concerned about, the share

has to be preserved,” he said. Two developments would help, Dr. Khullar said. One is the signing of a free trade deal, formally called a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, initiated one year ago and expected to be signed in 2013. Its aim is to triple bilateral trade. The other development would be greater engagement by small and medium enterprises, the main theme of the trade fair, the India Show, at the exhibition grounds. Source: Toronto Star

India expo draws \$40 Million worth of biz enquiries

The India Show in this Canadian city saw the generation of over \$40 million worth of serious business enquiries. The event was organised by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC India) as part of the Canadian Manufacturing Technology Show and was meant to showcase India’s engineering sector in Canada. A total of 154 engineering firms from India took part in the show, the largest Indian business contingent to visit Canada. According to the EEPC, 90 of them provided immediate feedback about their interactions at the event, a third said they had identified or appointed agents for their products in Canada at the expo. They said they had made at least 1,800 serious business contacts during the show. India was a strategic international partner this year at the biennial Canadian event. The India Show was part of a push by the 1955-founded EEPC and the Commerce ministry to explore the Canadian market for Indian engineering goods.

Source: Business Standard

Canada-India CEPA 'anchored in future, is more than numbers'

"Our trade with Singapore tripled by 2009, after we signed an agreement with them in 2005," observed Rahul Khullar, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry. Speaking about the Canadian context, Dr. Khullar said as his bottomline message: "Don't look at CEPA as a numbers agreement, but as something with an architecture that can yield bigger results." Dr. Khullar headed a 154-strong engineering industry contingent from India to showcase the country's prowess in cutting edge technology. On show was the much talked-about Tata Nano - "a car built to international standards, available at one-tenth the price," was the way Consul General Preeti Saran put it. Also on display was Reva, the electric car from the House of Mahindras. The event also saw a Memorandum of Understanding being signed between Rana Sarkar, President and CEO, Canada-India Business Council, and Aman Chadha, Chairman, Engineering Exports Promotion Council. Source: South Asian Focus

India Show boosts Canada-India Partnership

The India Show at the Canadian Manufacturing Technology Show was brought to Toronto by the Engineering Export Promotion Council and India’s Ministry of Commerce, the Canadian Manufacturing Technology Show showcased more than 150 Indian engineering companies along with major Canadian companies, from 17-20 October 2011 at Toronto’s Direct Energy Centre. The biggest show of Indian engineering companies in Canada, it was meant to promote ‘Brand India’ in the North American continent and was, suitably represented by Dr. Rahul Khullar, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Mr. Aman Chadha, Chairman EEPC India briefed the press on India’s advantages in the engineering sector. Source: Weekly Voice

B.C. Jobs and Trade Mission to China and India to Take Place November 4-18

B.C. Premier Christy Clark announced that 250 representatives from more than 120 B.C. companies and organizations in the mining, energy, forestry, seafood, transportation and education sectors will participate in the province-led jobs and trade mission to India and China and starting November 4. The India mission will include meetings with government and business leaders in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Amritsar and Bangalore, and the focus will be on mining investment, life sciences, technology, green energy, international education, and forestry. For more information, see www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/?WT.svl=TopNav. Source: Government of B.C. Press Release

Canada-India Education Council Hosts Education Mission to India

The Toronto-based Canada-India Education Council (CIEC) will host a senior executive level Canadian delegation to India between November 6-16 to explore growing opportunities in the Canada-India education corridor. The delegation will visit Mumbai, Ahmedabad and New Delhi and will attend the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)'s Higher Education Summit in New Delhi on November 11 and 12. This mission will offer opportunities for business, institutions and governments to network with potential partners, establish linkages for joint ventures and build relationships with local high schools. For more information about this mission, visit: www.canadaindiaeducation.com/BigMission2011.aspx

Source: Canada India Education Council Press Release

Eurocontrol Technics Signs Agreement with Aimil of India

Eurocontrol Technics Group Inc. of Toronto announced that it has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Aimil Ltd. of India through Xenemetrix Inc., its wholly-owned, Israel-based subsidiary. Eurocontrol Technics specializes in the acquisition, development and commercialization of authentication, verification and energy security technologies. Xenemetrix designs, manufactures and markets energy-dispersive X-ray fluorescence systems and components for a range of industries and applications. Aimil focuses on the instrumentation industry across the Indian sub-continent. According to the agreement, Aimil has been granted exclusive rights to promote and distribute Xenemetrix's products in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Source: Eurocontrol Technics Group Inc. Press Release

DataWind Awarded Contract from Indian Government to Make Tablet Computers

Montreal-based DataWind Ltd., a developer of wireless web products and services, has been awarded a contract with the Indian government to produce low-cost Aakash tablet computers which will be resold to university students. The mobile web device will be sold to the Indian government for US\$47 and re-sold to students at US\$37. The Indian government hopes to distribute around 10 million tablets. Datawind has opened a factory in India to make the tablets. Source: Globe and Mail

Research In Motion sets up facility in Mumbai to help surveillance by Indian Government

Research In Motion has set up a facility in Mumbai to help the Indian government carry out lawful surveillance of its BlackBerry services, the Wall Street Journal reported. The Waterloo, Ont., company gave India access to its consumer services, including its BlackBerry Messenger texting service in January after authorities raised security concerns, the newspaper said. However, RIM said it could not allow monitoring of its enterprise email. The newspaper said RIM partly assuaged India's security concerns by setting up the small Mumbai facility to handle surveillance requests from India. India can submit the name of a suspect its investigators want to wiretap and RIM will return decoded messages for that individual, as long as it is satisfied the request has legal authorization, it said. The new facility will handle lawful intercept requests for consumer services including the BlackBerry Messenger chat service, the paper added.

Source: Wall Street Journal

CORPORATE NEWS

Investors skeptical as Maple wins TMX board backing

Having lost the deal it wanted, Toronto Stock Exchange owner TMX Group Inc. is now working to sell the deal it has: to be acquired by bank and pension-led consortium Maple Group for \$3.8-billion. The perceived risk is in a regulatory approval process that isn't likely to conclude this year and could drag on until spring. "It's not a slam dunk just because management backed it," Thomas Caldwell, Chairman of Investment Firm Caldwell Financial Ltd., said. "The regulators still have some say." Mr. Caldwell, initially a fierce opponent of what he viewed as a deal that would put too much power in the hands of the nation's large banks and pension funds, has softened his view to acknowledge the payout potential for his clients who hold TMX stock. Maple will pay cash for 70% to 80% of TMX stock and then buy the rest with Maple shares.

Source: Financial Post

Pershing Square buys stake in Canadian Pacific

Canadian Pacific Railway could be in for a major shake-up after the fund of famed activist investor Bill Ackman said it has suddenly become the Calgary-based company's biggest shareholder. In a regulatory filing, Pershing Square Capital Management said it had acquired 20.6 million shares roughly 12.2% of the Calgary based company and that it expects to lobby the board and management concerning all aspects of the business. The fund paid US\$1.07-billion for the stake and has already made about US\$370-million on paper. CP has tried to focus on increasing its efficiency, but it has lagged behind its bigger rival Canadian National Railway by most measures for several years. The railway's operating ratio, an important measure of its expenses as a percentage of its sales was 2 percentage points worse than a year ago though during the quarter at 75.8%.

Source: Financial Post

Sterling Partners buys Mosaid

Wi-Lan Inc. broke off pursuit of Mosaid Technologies Inc. on October 31, 2011 after four years and multiple acquisition offers. The Ottawa-based patent firm said it does not intend to raise its \$532-million hostile bid to acquire its cross-town rival. The \$42 per share cash offer, which was increased on October 19 from an already twice-extended \$38 bid first made in mid-August, was trumped by a higher bid for Mosaid. Mosaid agreed to be acquired by Sterling Partners, a private equity firm in the United States with about US\$5-billion under management, for \$590-million or \$46 in cash per share, in a deal announced in the late evening of October 27. Source: Financial Post

Oxford Properties and CPP Investment Board Announce New Toronto AAA LEED Gold Office Tower Development

On October 14, 2011, Oxford Properties, the real estate arm of the OMERS Worldwide Group of Companies, and CPP Investment Board (CPPIB) announced the development of RBC WaterPark Place: a 930,000 square foot, 30 storey, class AAA LEED Gold office tower in downtown Toronto. The development is a 50/50 joint venture between Oxford, who will oversee all aspects of the development and management of the property, and CPP Investment Board. The building will be RBC's new national headquarters for its Canadian Banking business. RBC WaterPark Place will be located between Bay and York Streets on the north side of Queens Quay Boulevard. Designed by WZMH Architects, the development will be connected to the PATH system by a new elevated enclosed pedestrian bridge linked directly to the Air Canada Centre and Union Station.

Source: Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Press Release

CPPIB bags second dollar store chain

For the second time in four years, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board is putting its multibillion-dollar balance sheet behind a retail chain that sells goods for about a buck. Investing alongside U.S. private-equity firm Ares Management LLC, CPPIB has signed a friendly agreement to buy a majority stake in 99 Cents Only Stores for \$1.6-billion (U.S.), or \$22 a share. CPPIB has already profited from growth in the sector. The 99 Cents deal echoes its involvement in the Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.-led private equity buyout of Dollar General Corp. in 2007. That deal resulted in an initial public offering two years later. The 17.5 million shares that the CPPIB still holds have risen in price about 75 per cent since the IPO. The \$147-billion pension fund hopes to repeat that success with 99 Cents which, from 2006 to 2009, churned out total profit of \$33-million. In the past 12 months alone, it made \$75-million. Source: The Globe and Mail

Waste-to-Energy System using Ballard Fuel Cells to supply power to South Korean Grid

Ballard Power Systems, a Vancouver-based provider of clean energy fuel cell products, announced that the fuel cell system supplied to GS Platech is now operating successfully to provide power to the local South Korean electricity grid. GSPlatech's pilot plant in Cheongsong, South Korea uses plasma gasification technology to treat organic solid waste and is capable of producing sufficient high purity hydrogen to generate 50

kilowatts (50kW) of clean, zero-emission power. This project was undertaken as a national research project of the Korean Ministry of Knowledge and Economy with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of the Environment, under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. Source: Ballard Power Systems Press Release

Scotiabank to buy 51 per cent stake in Colombian bank for \$1Billion

Scotiabank announced recently it was buying a controlling stake of Colombia's Banco Colpatria in a \$1 billion (U.S.) stock and cash deal. Scotiabank said it will pay \$500 million cash and 10 million shares to buy 51 per cent of Banco Colpatria, Colombia's fifth-largest financial group. "Our investment in Banco Colpatria is a strategically important addition to our Latin American footprint. It represents an important link between our South American and Central American operations," said Brian Porter, the Head of Scotiabank's International Banking Arm. It was Scotia's 20th acquisition in South and Central America in the last six years. Scotia already has operations in 13 countries across Latin America including Peru, Chile, Brazil and Mexico. Scotiabank said it plans to integrate its own wholesale operations in Colombia into Banco Colpatria, which is Colombia's fifth-largest financial group, with a network of 175 branches and 308 automatic teller machines. Source: Toronto Star

U of T contributes to New York's push for academic excellence

The University of Toronto has joined a team of international schools to make a bid to build a \$450-million urban sciences campus in Brooklyn, N.Y. The deal includes a promise of city-owned land and \$100-million in seed capital. It is part of an ambitious plan by New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg to develop a world-class engineering and research commercialization facility. U of T's engineering faculty has teamed up with New York University, the City University of New York, Pittsburgh's Carnegie-Mellon University, Bombay's Indian Institute of Technology and the University of Warwick in Britain. U of T Vice-President and Provost Cheryl Misak said the proposal calls for 50 permanent and rotating faculty, new housing on the site, and corporate partnership agreements with IBM, Cisco and Siemens. Source: The Globe and Mail

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN CANADA

The 19th Annual CCPPP National Conference on Public-Private Partnerships: (November 21-22, 2011, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto): is recognized internationally as the premier forum on P3. The conference includes sessions on how best to involve user groups in design and a debate on bond or bank financing. (www.pppcouncil.ca)

Quebec Exploration 2011: (November 21-24, 2011, Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City): The theme of the conference is "From Knowledge to Discovery." It will highlight the importance of knowledge in mining exploration, as the shortest road to discovery. (www.quebecexploration.qc.ca)

Construct Canada: (November 30-December 2, 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre): is Canada's largest construction exposition and conference, which brings together influential buyers and decision-makers from the building, construction and design industry. (www.constructcanada.com)

National Green Building Conference and Exhibition: (November 30- December 1, 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre): is one of the largest building construction & design technologies exhibitions. It will focus on up-to-date information from 30 different products, technologies, and services categories commercial and residential building, construction and design, facility management, leasing, planning and real estate. (www.nationalgreenbuildingexpo.com)

Solar Canada 2011: (December 3-6, 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre): is the largest and most influential conference and trade show for the solar industry in Canada. This year's agenda covers the most timely and industry critical topics and is aimed at underpinning the growth and sustainability of Canada's solar industry. (www.solarcanadaconference.ca)

Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure Summit: (February 22-23, 2012, Toronto): the summit will bring together key stakeholders involved in leading EV projects around the world. It will provide an opportunity to hear strategies employed by pioneering markets to overcome major challenges in EV roll-out and ensure that your city is prepared for the highly-anticipated arrival of electric vehicles. (www.evehiclesummit.com)

Prospectors Developers Association of Canada 2012: (March 4-7, 2012, Metro Toronto Convention Centre): showcases 350 exhibitors promoting the latest technology, products, services and mining jurisdictions, over 27,700 industry representatives attend every year. The show attracts international delegates from 120 countries. (www.pdac.ca)

Demo International 2012: (September 20-22, 2012, Saint Raymond, Quebec): has evolved into one of North America's largest and unique outdoor equipment shows. It will attract over 150 exhibitors featuring the latest technologies in equipment, products and services covering all aspects of woodlands operations, from silviculture and harvesting practices, road construction, biomass harvesting, recovery and transportation systems, to private woodland management. (www.demointernational.com)