

**Consulate General of India
Toronto**

No. Tor/Com/201/1/2012

31 May 2012

Economic & Commercial Report for March 2012

I. Executive Summary

- Real GDP increased by 0.1% in March after a 0.2% decrease in February
- Rate of inflation increased by 1.9 % in March, after a 2.6% increase in February
- Total trade increased to US\$227.22 billion
- Trade balance decreased to US\$ 1.32 billion
- Both imports and exports decreased
- Bilateral trade with India increased
- Bilateral trade balance (India) decreased
- Investments in Canada decreased
- Canadian investments abroad increased
- Canadian dollar traded close to parity in comparison to the US dollar

II. Total GDP

Canadian GDP was C\$1.71 trillion at market prices (2011). Real gross domestic product increased by 0.1% in March after a decrease of 0.2% in February. The output of service industries grew 0.2%, while goods production declined 0.1%. There were increases in manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail trade, and accommodation and food services. Manufacturing output increased 0.9% in March after a 0.8% decline in February. Construction rose 0.8%, with all major components (residential and non-residential buildings, engineering and repair work) increasing. Wholesale trade (+0.7%) increased for a fourth consecutive month and Retail trade increased 0.6%. Oil and gas extraction declined 2.4%. Utilities decreased 0.9% and the finance and insurance sector decreased 0.1%. (Source: Statistics Canada)

III. Rate of Inflation

Consumer prices rose 1.9% in the 12 months to March, after a 2.6% increase in February. The 0.7 percentage point difference was largely the result of slower year-over-year increases in prices for food and energy. Food prices rose 2.2% in the 12 months to March. The cost of energy increased 5.1% in the 12 months to March, after rising 7.2% in February. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), excluding food and energy, increased 1.5% in the 12 months to March. This increase followed a 1.7% gain in February. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices increased 0.2% from February to March after increasing 0.1% from January to February. Of the eight major components, six posted slower year-over-year increases in March compared with February. The two exceptions were recreation, education and reading; and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. Year over year, consumer prices increased at a slower pace in March than in February in every province. The Bank of Canada's core index rose 1.9% in the 12 months to March, after increasing 2.3% in February. (Source: Statistics Canada)

IV. Total Trade

(All figures in billions of US\$)

	March'11	March'12	Change	Upto March'11	Upto March'12	Change
Total Exports	40.04	40.81	1.92%	107.90	114.27	5.90%
Total Imports	39.84	40.40	1.41%	106.27	112.95	6.29%
Total Trade	79.88	81.21	1.66%	214.17	227.22	6.09%
Trade Balance	0.20	0.41	105.00%	1.63	1.32	-19.02%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

(All figures in billions of US\$)

	2009	2010	Change	Q4-2011	Q1-2012	Change
Total Exports	315.03	387.72	23.07%	115.77	114.26	-1.30%
Total Imports	319.94	392.04	22.54%	113.22	112.94	-0.25%
Total Trade	634.97	779.76	22.80%	228.99	227.20	-0.78%
Trade Balance	-4.91	-4.32	-12.02%	2.55	1.32	-48.24%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

V. Total trade with 10 major countries

Exports (Top 10 countries)

(All figures in millions of US\$)

Countries	March'11	March'12	Change
USA	30,016	30,697	2.27%
China	1,379	1,695	22.92%
United Kingdom (U.K.)	1,514	1,520	0.40%
Japan	865	947	9.48%
Hong Kong	263	529	101.14%
Mexico	471	437	-7.22%
France (incl. Monaco, French Antilles)	276	361	30.80%
Netherlands	400	328	-18.00%
Korea, South	558	299	-46.42%
Norway	257	263	2.33%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

Imports (Top 10 countries)

(All figures in millions of US\$)

Countries	March'11	March'12	Change
USA	20,567	20,767	0.97%
China	3,562	3,800	6.68%
Mexico	2,175	2,287	5.15%
Japan	1,275	1,499	17.57%
Germany	1,221	1,325	8.52%
United Kingdom (U.K.)	988	909	-8.00%
Korea, South	530	594	12.08%
Italy (includes Vatican City State)	454	477	5.07%
France (incl. Monaco, French Antilles)	549	425	-22.59%
Taiwan	374	408	9.09%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

VI. Total trade with India

(All figures in millions of US\$)

	March'11	March'12	Change	Upto March'11	Upto March'12	Change
Indian Exports	278.23	244.50	-12.12%	662.94	818.26	23.43%
Indian Imports	204.45	135.69	-33.63%	541.53	424.16	-21.67%
Total Trade	482.68	380.19	-21.23%	1204.47	1242.42	3.15%
Trade Balance	73.78	108.81	47.48%	121.41	394.1	224.60%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

Indian Exports (Top 10 commodities)

(All figures in thousands of US\$)

Item & HS Code	March'11	March'12	Change
29 - Organic Chemicals (Including Vitamins, Alkaloids and Antibiotics)	22,248	26,780	20.37%
30 - Pharmaceutical Products	11,597	22,607	94.94%
73 - Articles of Iron or Steel	13,480	21,279	57.86%
62 - Woven Clothing and Articles of Apparel	20,562	17,473	-15.02%
71 - Pearls, Precious Stones or Metals, Coins and Jewellery	14,109	14,468	2.54%
84 - Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances	12,745	14,365	12.71%
63 - Other Made-Up Textile Articles and Worn Clothing	8,882	12,090	36.12%
61 - Knitted or Crocheted Clothing and Articles of Apparel	20,288	10,678	-47.37%
85 - Electrical or Electronic Machinery and Equipment	11,125	9,660	-13.17%
09 - Coffee, Tea, Maté and Spices	4,695	6,870	46.33%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

Indian Imports (Top 10 commodities)

(All figures in thousands of US\$)

Item & HS Code	March'11	March'12	Change
07 - Edible Vegetables and Certain Roots and Tubers	50,143	27,034	-46.09%
48 - Paper, Paperboard and Articles Made From These Materials	26,111	14,893	-42.96%
47 - Pulp of Wood and The Like; Waste and Scrap of Paper or Paperboard	8,077	13,324	64.96%
31 - Fertilizers	23,704	12,385	-47.75%
84 - Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances	15,577	12,249	-21.36%
88 - Aircrafts and Spacecrafts	164	11,813	-----
72 - Iron and Steel	4,343	6,517	50.06%
85 - Electrical or Electronic Machinery and Equipment	5,566	5,861	5.30%
90 - Optical, Medical, Photographic, Scientific and Technical Instrumentation	6,904	5,814	-15.79%
76 - Aluminum and Articles Thereof	6,821	4,958	-27.31%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

VII. Major investments within and outside the country

Canadian investors purchased \$1.6 billion of foreign bonds in March after divestments in the previous two months. Canadians also invested in US Treasury bonds for the first time in 2012. However, they reduced their holdings of foreign money market instruments by \$172 million in March. This was the fifth straight divestment in these instruments. Canadian investors purchased \$6.4 billion of foreign equities in March, led by demand from pension funds. This was the strongest investment since April 2007. Canadian investors acquired the largest amount of foreign securities in nearly five years at \$7.8 billion, with investment concentrated in equities.

Source: Statistics Canada

Non-residents acquired \$288 million of Canadian stocks in March, down from a \$445 million purchase in February. Non-resident investors also reduced their holdings of Canadian bonds by \$897 million in March, following a \$13.7 billion acquisition in February. Foreign investors removed \$1.5 billion from their holdings of Canadian money market instruments in March, marking a third straight month of divestment. This activity was again concentrated in Canadian Treasury bills, with non-residents reducing their holdings by a further \$3.1 billion. Foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian securities for the second time in three months as they divested \$2.1 billion in March, led by debt instruments. Source: Statistics Canada

Corporate Investments

U of T ranks 16th globally in a survey of academic reputation

The University of Toronto has the best reputation for post-secondary learning in Canada and the 16th best reputation in the world, according to the UK-based 2012 Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings. The Reputation Rankings (now in their second year) are based on a survey of 17,554 published scholars from 137 countries. "Last year, U of T ranked 17th in the survey, with Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cambridge University in the top three spots." 'Only 100 universities are listed in our prestigious World Reputation Rankings, that is around 0.5 per cent of the world's higher education institutions,' said Phil Baty, editor of the Times Higher Education Rankings. "Two other Canadian universities, the University of British Columbia and McGill University, are also among the 100 universities featured in the World Reputation Rankings." Source: Yonge Street Media

CSA expands Asia Operations with opening of new Testing and Certification Lab in Taiwan

Mississauga-based CSA Group, a global testing and certification organization, announced the opening of a new laboratory equipped with a state-of-the-art testing and certification equipment located in Xinzhuang, New Taipei City, Taiwan. The laboratory is expected to provide localized testing and certification services for Taiwan's manufacturers. Product testing categories of the lab include audio and video, EEV/Energy Star, tools, transformers, information technology, medical and household appliances. Source: CSA Group Press Release

Crocodile Gold signs Agreement to acquire two mines in Australia from AuRico Gold

Crocodile Gold Corp. and AuRico Gold Inc., both Toronto-based gold mining companies, announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement pursuant to which Crocodile Gold will acquire the Stawell and Fosterville mines located in Victoria State, Australia through the acquisition of all of the shares of Northgate Australian Ventures Corporation Pty Ltd from

AuRico, for total consideration of up to C\$105 million. The transaction consists of C\$70 million in cash and C\$10 million in Crocodile Gold common shares to be paid on the closing date of the transaction. Another C\$25 million in contingent payments will be paid over three installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the closing date of the transaction.

Source: Crocodile Gold Corp. Press Release

Stillwater, Mitsubishi enter into Agreement to Develop Marathon Mining Project in Ontario

US-based Stillwater Mining Company announced that it has entered into an agreement with Mitsubishi Corporation, a Japan-based global integrated enterprise, in which the latter will acquire a 25% interest in Stillwater's PGM/copper project located in Marathon, Ontario for approximately US\$81.25 million and meet the ventures first cash call of US\$13.6 million for a total cash payment by Mitsubishi of US\$94.6 million. Mitsubishi will be responsible for funding its 25% share of operating, capital and exploration expenditures on the Marathon properties and has agreed to cooperate and support efforts to secure project financing for Marathon. The Marathon deposit is located about 10 kms north of Marathon, Ontario, near the north shore of Lake Superior. Stillwater Mining Company produces palladium and platinum and a primary producer of platinum group metals. Source: Stillwater Mining Company Press Release

Viterra acquires Australia's IPS Logistics' Container Packing Operation

Calgary-based Viterra Inc. has broadened its Australian grain operations and origination capabilities with the acquisition of IPS Logistics' container packing operation in Narrabri, New South Wales. The acquired assets include 75,000 tonnes of storage, a packing facility with the capacity to load more than 10,000 shipping containers annually and integrated rail access to facilities at Port Botany. The newly acquired facility at Narrabri will also provide access to a Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Biosecurity registered establishment for export certification container packing. The transaction is pending completion of the customary closing requirements, including approval by the Foreign Investment Review Board.

Source: Viterra Inc. Press Release

ShawCor receives Pipe Coating Contracts for Southeast Asia

Toronto-based ShawCor Ltd. announced that its pipecoating division, Bredero Shaw, has received contracts worth more than US\$30 million from PEARLOIL (Sebuku) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pearl Energy, the Southeast Asia operating arm of U.A.E.-based Mubadala Oil & Gas. The contract involves Bredero Shaw providing pipeline coatings and related products and services for the Ruby Gas Field Development Project. The Ruby Field Development export pipeline will connect the offshore gas field to a dedicated receiving terminal in North Bontang, East Kalimantan, Indonesia and a tie-in pipeline will connect the receiving terminal to Total's onshore facilities at Senipah in East Kalimantan. ShawCor is an energy services company specializing in products and services for the pipeline and pipe services and the petrochemical and industrial segments of the oil and gas industry. Source: ShawCor Ltd. Press Release

SaskPower and Hitachi of Japan to develop Carbon Capture Test Facility

Regina-based SaskPower and Hitachi Ltd., a Japan-based electronic company, announced that they are partnering to construct a C\$60 million carbon capture test facility (CCTF) at SaskPower's Shand Power Station in southeastern Saskatchewan. The CCTF will allow international developers to evaluate performance of their systems to capture carbon dioxide

emissions from coal-fired thermal power plants. SaskPower and Hitachi will each contribute approximately C\$30 million to the CCTF, with SaskPower acting as owner and operator. Hitachi will supply the process development team and core process equipment from their Saskatoon manufacturing facility. SaskPower operates coal-fired power stations, hydroelectric stations, natural gas stations and wind facilities. Source: SaskPower Press Release

Canpotex and Sinofert of China sign new Potash Contract

Saskatoon-based Canpotex Limited announced that it has signed a contract with Sinofert Holdings Limited of China to supply 500,000 tonnes of potash in the second quarter of calendar 2012. The new contract includes an option to increase this tonnage by an additional 200,000 tonnes for delivery during that same period. The contract is the third concluded under the three-year Memorandum of Understanding signed with Sinofert in October, 2010. Sinofert is an integrated agricultural company. Source: Canpotex Ltd. Press Release

Teck and China's Ministry of Agriculture Sign Agreement to Promote Zinc Fertilizer

Vancouver-based Teck Resources Limited and the National Agricultural Technology Extension Service Center of the Ministry of Agriculture of China (NATESC) announced that they have signed an agreement to demonstrate and promote zinc fertilizer use in China. NATESC, in partnership with the International Zinc Association, has already conducted over 40 field trials of zinc fertilizer in China. The Teck and NATESC partnership will build on this work by providing a total of C\$500,000 in matching funds from both Teck and NATESC to conduct up to a further 50 field trial demonstration projects and promote the benefits of zinc fertilizer. Teck is a diversified resource company focused on mining and mineral development with major business units focused on copper, steelmaking coal, zinc and energy. Source: Teck Resources Limited Press Release

VIII. India's Investment interests

Aerospace, Automotive, Biotechnology, Business Services, Chemicals, Digital Media- Games, Pharmaceuticals, Plastics, Agri-Foods, Renewable Energy, Mining, Wireless and the Software sectors in Canada are good options for investment by Indian companies.

IX. Currency

Canadian Dollar close to parity in comparison to US Dollar

During March, the Canadian dollar traded close to parity in comparison with the US Dollar. It closed at 1.00 US dollar on March 30^h 2012.

Source: Bank of Canada

X. Major trading agreements proposed / finalised

Exploratory Talks towards Canada-Thailand Free Trade Agreement

On March 23rd, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Thailand Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra announced that Canada and Thailand will pursue exploratory discussions towards a free trade agreement. The exploratory talks will examine the potential economic benefits of a free trade agreement and how such an agreement would enhance the existing relationship

between the two countries. Thailand is Canada's largest bilateral merchandise trading partner within the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Source: Prime Minister's Office Press Release

Launch of free trade negotiations with Japan

On March 25th, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan announced the launch of negotiations towards a free trade agreement that will deepen the trade and investment ties between Canada and Japan. The announcement was made during an official visit to Japan by Prime Minister Harper, where he was joined by Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway. The free trade agreement negotiations build on a recently released Canada-Japan Joint Study which estimates that such an agreement could mean gains of up to \$3.8 billion a year in Canadian gross domestic product, with Canadian exports to Japan increasing by as much as 67 percent. The Government will continue to engage stakeholders to ensure that their interests and concerns are taken into account during the course of the negotiations. Source: Prime Minister's Office Press Release

Canada-Slovak Republic FIPA

An agreement was reached between Canada and the Czech Republic for the promotion and protection of investments. The FIPA (Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement) was brought into force on March 14th 2012.

XI. Principal 5 export destinations

USA, China, United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong (**India –16th**)

XII. Principal 5 import sources

USA, China, Mexico, Japan, Germany (**India –20th**)

XIII. Principal 5 export commodities of Canada

(All figures in millions of US\$)

HS Code and Item	Total Export
27 - Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils, Bituminous Substances and Mineral Waxes	10,676.68
87 - Motor Vehicles, Trailers, Bicycles, Motorcycles and Other Similar Vehicles	5,184.39
84 - Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery And Mechanical Appliances	2,937.03
71- Pearls, Precious Stones or Metals, Coins and Jewellery	1,951.82
85 - Electrical or Electronic Machinery and Equipment	1,454.96

(Source: Statistics Canada)

XIV. Principal 5 import items of Canada

(All figures in millions of US\$)

HS Code and Item	Total Import
270900 - Crude Petroleum Oils And Oils Obtained From Bituminous Minerals	2,627.65
870323 - Motor Vehicles - Spark Ignition – Cylinder Capacity 1501-3000 CC	1,453.97
870431 - Trucks - Spark Ignition - Load Not Exceeding 5 Tonnes	952.21
870324 - Motor Vehicles - Spark Ignition -Cylinder Capacity More Than 3000 CC	947.17
710812 - Gold In Unwrought Form (Non-Monetary)	818.76

(Source: Statistics Canada)

XV. Trade of top 5 items between India and Canada

Indian Exports

(All figures in thousands of US\$)

Item & HS Code	March'11	March'12	Change
300490 - Medicaments Nes -In Dosage	9,978	20,761	108.07%
710239 - Diamonds - Non-Industrial - Worked – Not Mounted Or Set	7,832	9,006	14.99%
291470 - Halogenated, Sulphonated, Nitrated Or Nitrosated Derivatives Of Ketones And Quinones	834	8,440	911.99%
730429 - Casings, Tubing, Other Than Stainless Steel, Seamless, For Use In Drilling For Oil Or Gas	2,039	7,898	287.35%
630231 - Bedsheets, Pillowcases And Bed Linen (Incl. Sets) - Woven, Not Printed - Cotton	3,142	6,064	93.00%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

Indian Imports

(All figures in US\$)

Item & HS Code	March'11	March'12	Change
071310 - Peas - Dried And Shelled	38,348,741	20,546,626	-46.42%
480100 - Newsprint - In Rolls Or Sheets	25,651,787	13,949,557	-45.62%
310420 - Potassium Chloride	23,615,946	12,307,467	-47.88%
880529 - Other Ground Flying Trainers (Incl. Flight Simulators) Nes And Parts	54,623	10,823,414	-----
071340 - Lentils - Dried And Shelled	11,672,221	6,487,658	-44.42%

(Source: Statistics Canada)

XVI. India-Canada

Dr. Vishwapati Trivedi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines, Government of India led a 30 member delegation for PDAC 2012 from March 4-7

During his visit Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines, met with Hon'ble Rick Bartolucci, Ontario's Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Mr. Ray Mantha, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines & Minerals, Ontario's Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and senior Natural Resources Canada officials. He also gave a speech at an evening reception where Hon'ble Joe Oliver, Minister for Natural Resources Canada was keynote speaker. An India Day event was organized on March 6, 2012 at the Metro Toronto Convention centre where representatives of Ministry of Mines, Geological Survey of India, Department of Mines, Rajasthan, Uranium Corporation of India, National Mineral Development Council, Rio Tinto and Tata Steel gave presentations. A reception was also organized on March 6th where Dr. Trivedi was the keynote speaker. He also spoke at a session organized by the Canada India Business Council. The delegation participated in focused meetings with Process Research Ortech Inc. and Pan Vest Capital Corporation.

All that glitters...sparkles

Diamonds are the latest talk of the town in the India-Canada trade corridor along with potash and possible tech transfers. Dr. Vishwapathi Trivedi, Government of India Secretary (Deputy Minister), Minister of Mines, was in Toronto for the PDAC International Convention from March

4-7 for the mining industry. Dr. Trivedi expressed interest in Canada's proven expertise in extracting and processing potash, along with possible tech transfer deals, to help India boost its agro fertilizer capabilities. "We're setting up a joint Centre of Excellence in Mining with four Canadian institutions and two of our own — Indian Mining School, and IIT — Kharagpur, to explore possibilities," he said. He added a bill he had helped author, to boost mining in India, is now before Parliament, and should become law in time to come. This should help overcome issues currently hampering investment and development in India's mining sector, he said. "The country is rich in various minerals; extracting the ore from under the ground, and investment to make it happen are what are needed. And Canada can help on both these issues," Dr Trivedi observed. Source: South Asian Focus

Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce forms new Canada-India Mining Committee

The Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) announced the launch of a mining committee to create opportunities in the sector. Making this announcement on March 5th, Satish Thakkar, President, ICCC, said, "One of our Chamber's focuses is to explore mining-related trade and investment opportunities in exploration and mining technologies. We want to give a tangible dimension to the mining sector MOU between Ontario and India signed in July 2010. "The committee will be headed by Indira Singh, a mining sector veteran who has worked at Ontario's Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Satish Thakkar of the ICCC and Bhushan Vora, Chairman of the Diamond Bourse of Canada will be the other members, subsequently two additional members will also be inducted to make the committee more representative.

Source: Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce

World's mining powers converge in Toronto

It's billed as the premier mining conference in the world, attracting both those who enthusiastically want to expand mineral exploration and excavation, as well as those who want to stop it. The conference Prospectors Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) drew 30,000 investors, analysts, mining executives, geologists, prospectors and government officials from 120 countries. Mining in India is a \$43 billion US industry. Silver, zinc, copper, marble and limestone are the main minerals, and fuel minerals such as coal make up 67 per cent of the country's production. "Our country has a big appetite. We need more [minerals] than we produce and our demand is ever-growing," said Suresh Kishnani Director in the Ministry of Mines. Parts of the country, such as Rajasthan, have vast tracts of mineral wealth that have yet to be explored and excavated, he added. The country is in the process of passing amendments to its mining act to make investing in mining more seamless and secure as well as cap delays in the approval process. It will also emphasize transparency in competitive bids and environmental sustainability, added Vishwapati Trivedi, deputy minister of mines. "With the new act, India will be a very attractive proposition." Source: CBC News

Mines Bill may be in slow lane to House

The mining industry will have to wait till at least the monsoon session of Parliament for passage of the new Mines and Mineral Development and Regulation (MMDR) Bill. The legislation is being examined by a parliamentary standing committee. Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines, India, Mr. Vishwapati Trivedi, ruled out earlier passage of the Bill. He said, "The Budget session starts on March 12 and I think the standing committee has not yet completed its deliberations. So, there's no way we can get it in the Budget session." Mr. Trivedi said the committee had been given three months, but had the freedom to ask for more time. "If all goes well, we should

be able to get the whole Act through in the next session of Parliament." There was, he said, no delay on the legislation; it was going through the process every Act had to undergo. The MMDR Bill seeks to bring greater transparency, better regulation and quicker approvals in the sector.

Source: Business Standard

Arunachal Chief Minister promotes Arunachal Pradesh in Toronto

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki held meetings with the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Consul General of India at Skylink Business Centre in Toronto on March 13 and pitched for international investments while projecting the unique natural advantages enjoyed by the state in various sectors. This effort by the state government is likely to bring in substantial private investments in tourism, forestry, hydro-power and horticulture, an official said. Tuki, heading a five-member delegation, highlighted that the state is strategically poised for attracting foreign investments in several areas. He marketed the state as a future powerhouse of the country and the next major tourist destination. He invited various prospective investors, who attended the meeting, to visit the state and see for themselves the limitless possibilities that exist in the state and assured them of full support from the government in all projects that they propose to undertake here. He released a compilation of various investment opportunities in the state titled "Venture Arunachal", which has been compiled by the state planning department.

Minister Fast opened Ottawa's Largest Indian Business Expo with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister

The Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway addressed Indo-Canadian business leaders at the opening ceremony of Brand India Expo 2012 on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. He told participants at the Brand India Expo 2012 in Ottawa that the growing Canada-India partnership shows the critical role strong people-to-people ties play, as both countries continue to negotiate a comprehensive trade agreement. The Brand India Expo highlights the ever-growing trade and investment ties between Canada and India, which are being further strengthened through the Government of Canada's ongoing free trade negotiations with India, set to boost the Canadian economy by as much as \$6 billion. It was inaugurated by Mr. Nabam Tuki, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, and Hon. Ed Fast.

Source: Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Canada, India Redoubling Trade Talk Efforts

Speaking at the Brand India Expo 2012 in Ottawa, Minister Ed Fast said that "since leading a trade mission to India last November, I am more convinced than ever that the growing Canada-India trade and investment relationship will benefit hardworking Canadians and Indians alike." He added that: "With more than a million Canadians of Indian origin, our growing trade relationship shows how our people-to-people ties are helping us to deepen the Canada-India relationship." During his speech, Minister Fast said that more than 22% growth in bilateral merchandise trade in 2011, worth CAD5.1 billion. Included in this figure was what Fast called an astonishing 332% year-on-year increase in aircraft sales. Turning to the current talks on a trade agreement, Fast said: "That's also why Minister Anand Sharma, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, and I have instructed our negotiators on a Canada-India comprehensive economic partnership to redouble their efforts to complete negotiations in 2013." Source: Tax News.com

Chief Minister Tuki strengthens Toronto bond

Building further on the successful start to his Canada visit in Toronto, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki inaugurated the Brand India Expo 2012 in Ottawa on March 16th along with Ed Fast, the Minister of International Trade for Canada. The expo, which was a multi-product exhibition highlighting the core strengths of various Indian products and the country's potential in various sectors, was organized by the Indian High Commission as part of its 'Year of India in Canada' initiative. More than 300 delegates representing 65 business houses participated in the initiative. The event was also attended by over 20 ambassadors and high commissioners of various countries to Canada. Tuki made a strong case for projecting Arunachal Pradesh as the next big investment destination in India by highlighting the potential areas for investment and the impressive growth rates recorded by the state in the past two years. He sought technology transfer from Canadian companies, which are pioneers in their respective fields. Source: Times News Network

Indian Railway Officers delegation visited Canada to attend meeting of IHHA Review Committee

A 3-member Indian Railway Officers delegation led by Mr. R.K. Jain, Adviser (Infra), Railway Board, visited Canada from 25-29 March to attend meeting of IHHA Review Committee at Ottawa. The delegation also visited multimodal terminal of CP railway at Vaughan, Toronto, and held discussions on goods handling. The other members of the delegation were Mr. Jeetendra Singh, Director Planning (Special), Railway Board, and Mr. Parmeshwar Funkwal, Executive Director (Structures), RDSO.

Atlantic Canadian Delegation completed Business Mission to India

A delegation of representatives from eight Atlantic Canadian companies and organizations returned from a multi-sector business mission to India, which took place March 12-25, 2012. This mission allowed representatives from the food, security, energy, education and technology industries, as well as government organizations, to make connections and identify business opportunities in this priority and emerging market. During the mission, organized in partnership with the World Trade Centre Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canadian seafood was featured during a week-long event at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai. Atlantic Canadian seafood companies Clearwater, Royal Star, PEI Mussel King, Louisbourg Seafood, Acadian Seaplants and Miramichi Smokehouse provided products for this event. Total exports from Canada to India stood at \$2.5 billion in 2011, an increase of 275% compared to 2001. Imports of Indian products into Atlantic Canada rose by 156% during the same time period. In 2011, the value of Atlantic Canadian products exported to India totalled over \$115 million, an increase of 262% compared to 2001. Source: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Canada-India Relations getting Warmer

Canada India relations are getting warmer every day. High level delegations from both the countries and from various ministries have already visited each other or are scheduled in next couple of months. The relations saw a sea change after the civil nuclear deal which was signed by both the countries. Prime Minister Harper's visit to India in 2009 and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Canada in 2010 during the G20 summit have strengthened the on going process. The net advantage was the bilateral trade going up by 44% from 2009 to 2011. Canada and India are currently working on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which is scheduled to be finalized by the next year. Four important rounds of

negotiations have already taken place. Once the CEPA is finalized and rate tariffs are brought down and implemented at the earliest it will open new avenues and vistas for the Canadian and Indian businesses. Canadian Universities like Carleton have already taken a lead in the process and have collaborated and signed MOU'S with many Indian Universities of repute. This will open a new area of educational cooperation which will be more useful for the Canadian Universities as they will see more of Indian students coming for higher education to Canada.

Source: Can Asian Times

Canada, India to cement nuclear ties

Once the civil nuclear cooperation agreement between India and Canada is in place, the two countries could cooperate in looking at “third markets” requiring nuclear technology for energy purposes, according to Canadian High Commissioner to India, Stewart G. Beck. He said that currently negotiations were on between Canada and India on the administrative arrangements of the pact. After they get firmed up, Canada would be able to sell uranium, nuclear supplies and equipment to India. Mr. Beck said both the countries during the past 30 years have developed nuclear technologies in parallel tracks. “We will able to compare notes, take best practices and build nuclear relationship which will obviously have the opportunity of building reactors in India but also looking at third markets where, I think, technology has applications”, he added. He said there were countries looking at nuclear technology for energy purposes. The reactors that Canada and India have built would work in smaller economies, be it third markets in Europe, Asia or other nations. Source: The Hindu

P.E.I. Mission team traveled to India to promote Prince Edward Island as a business location

Premier of P.E.I. Robert Ghiz said, “India is one of the world’s emerging global markets. We are going to India to put Prince Edward Island on the map, to promote our province and grow our economy through the many business and partnership opportunities in India,” said Premier Ghiz. “This mission was part of our province’s on-going efforts to stimulate economic growth, trade and international investment.” The Province and ACOA worked together to represent Invest PEI, a partnership of all three levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal) working together to attract foreign investment to the province. During the mission, meetings took place with Indian-based companies to explore options for investing in Prince Edward Island. The delegation visited Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore from February 25 to March 2.

Source: Premier’s Office Press Release (Prince Edward Island)

The 2012 Telfer India Forum – “Establishing Your Presence in India – What You Need to Know”

India, of course, represents a multi-faceted opportunity for Canada: a huge export and investment market, a cost effective outsourcing destination, an investor into Canada and a partner for third country projects. The opportunities are well recognized and the current state of government to government relations has never been better. Following the momentum gained through the “Year of India in Canada last year”, Canada is clearly poised to much more business with India. Crucial to Canada’s success will be ramping up the presence of Canadian firms in India. The 5th annual India Forum at the Telfer School of Management held on March 8, 2012 was dedicated to addressing the opportunities and challenges in establishing a presence in India. The Forum was well attended by over 100 representatives of the business, government and academic communities who also gained insight into the current investment climate in India and the significant developments occurring in the Indo-Canadian trade and investment corridor. This year’s India Forum was held in collaboration with the Indo Canadian Ottawa Business

Chamber (ICOBC) and the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation (MEDI) of Ontario. Source: University of Ottawa

MoneyGram and India Post ramp up location availability for Money Transfers in World's largest Inward Remittance Market

MoneyGram International, a leading global money transfer company, and India Post, the largest distribution postal network in the world announced that their existing agreement to offer money transfer services through India Post outlets has expanded from an initial 100 locations to more than 650 locations across the country. MoneyGram officials discussed the importance of postal networks as part of its global distribution strategy, as well as plans for continued roll-out to additional locations of India Post in urban and rural areas of the country. Officials from Canada Post – the largest retail network in Canada, and whose locations have offered MoneyGram services for 10 years discussed the added convenience for Indo-Canadians who wire funds to family in India. According to Statistics Canada, the central statistical office that conducts the country's official census, approximately 1.3 million natives of India live in Canada, with nearly 500,000 in the Toronto area. With 155,000 locations, India Post serves a critical role in facilitating the distribution of funds in a country where less than 50 percent of the population has a bank account. According to the World Bank, India is the world's largest inward remittance market, with \$53.1 billion in incoming remittances last year. Source: Business Wire

Canada-India bid to make Bollywood films

Toronto's Inner City Films and India's Ramoji Film City have announced a deal to make three Bollywood films. There will be two masala-comedy-action films, an international spy caper entitled Mumbai Showdown, and a time-shifting treasure hunt, Past Life. But the first in the line-up will be Boy Wonder, a docu-drama based on the award-winning documentary Ganesh, Boy Wonder, said producer-director Alfons Adetuyi of Inner City. "All the films will be for world audiences, including Indian as well as diaspora viewers, who will obviously be very important for us," Adetuyi said. Negotiated during the Canadian Film Mission to India, sponsored by the Ontario Media Development Corp and Telefilm Canada, the path-breaking deal is expected to encourage more co-productions between Canada and India. Source: South Asian Focus

Softsystems Canada Inc. joins Port Hope's IDEAHUB

Softsystems Canada Inc. is the latest tenant to join Port Hope's IDEAHUB. A software development and consultancy firm, Softsystems works to empower the food & agriculture industry with high-tech solutions and services which enable its customers to maximize industry information as a strategic planning tool. Softsystems Canada Inc. offers high-end comprehensive web-based planning solutions through an "Office in the Sky" model and currently works with clients in the winery, wheat, corn, horticulture, floriculture and other agri-businesses sector as well as churches and charitable institutions. Judy Selvig, Director of Economic Development stated, "We are pleased to welcome a new tenant to the IDEAHUB. Statistics show that 84% of incubated businesses stay and grow out into the community upon graduation and 87% are still in business after five years and we look forward to supporting Softsystems Canada Inc. as they growth into the Port Hope business community." IDEAHUB was established in 2010 through Federal and Municipal funding, to support emerging entrepreneurs in a full service business incubator. Source: Municipality of Port Hope

Trade agency says companies should increasingly target India

Over the next five years, India is expected to spend about \$1 trillion on infrastructure, and EDC said Canadian corporations need to get into India now to earn a slice of that spending. Canada is set to complete a free-trade agreement with India by 2013, which, EDC said, could more than triple the value of trade between Canada and India to \$15 billion from just more than \$4 billion. The market is already becoming "increasingly difficult" and "difficult to break into," according to the report. "Given the scale of the market, even capturing a small percentage can generate significant benefits," the EDC wrote in its corporate plan report. Companies that could best prosper in India are engineering, transport and environmental firms, EDC said. EDC, which helps companies expand and gain contracts for work overseas, has offices in Mumbai and in New Delhi. Source: Postmedia News

Asian trade key to Saskatchewan future

Saskatchewan topped the GDP growth charts in 2011, and is expected to retain the top spot this year and next on the back of strong agriculture, mining and energy exports, and from robust investment and consumer spending. A major reason for Saskatchewan's economic renaissance is Asia. The province's exports to Asia have nearly doubled in the past five years. Saskatchewan's trade with India is even more remarkable, accounting for 35 per cent of Canada's exports to the country—well ahead of other provinces. It goes without saying that Saskatchewan has the natural resources that Asia needs. Potash, wheat, canola, and pulses are prime examples. Energy is another Asia export opportunity that has barely been tapped. The recent signing of nuclear agreements with India and China open the door for uranium sales that could be worth billions of dollars. But the importance of Asia for Saskatchewan goes well beyond the export of commodities. There is growing Asian investment interest in the province, not only to mine natural resources but to tap into the broader expertise this province has developed, especially in agriculture and agri-food, as well as in energy and mining technology. Recent deals have included the acquisition of a digital communications firm by India-based Kavveri Telecom. There is also ongoing co-operation between Indian and Canadian researchers on synchrotron science. Source: The StarPhoenix

Canada's pension funds are a great model for India to learn from

India's pension funds should learn from Canada's biggest public pension fund groups. The largest four have corpuses that range between \$55 billion and \$157 billion each and deliver returns that range between 12% and 14.5% annually. Unlike other funds, the Canadian funds do much of their investing themselves, rather than outsource the job, paying steep fees. A private equity fund can charge as much as 2% of assets and 20% of profits to run other people's money. Hiring and retaining employees with the same skills is less costly. The Canadian funds can afford to invest long term: so, along with highly-liquid equities, they also go for big bets in real estate, overseas utilities and the railway service through the Channel tunnel. They hold such assets for long periods: 10 years is not unusual, unlike mutual funds, whose holding horizons are determined by redemption pressures. To attract talent, these funds recruit professionals, paying them a base salary, annual bonus and a long-term performance award, which constitutes the largest part of the payout. Source: Economic Times

Indian company coming to P.E.I.

An IT company from India is bringing 100 jobs to P.E.I. Premier of PEI Robert Ghiz said Mphasis would grow to create about 300 jobs by 2014. Mphasis employs about 40,000 people, servicing insurance and banking sectors. This would be their first branch office in North America. Ghiz said the company was attracted by P.E.I.'s proximity to financial centres in New York and Toronto. Ghiz expects Mphasis will establish initially in Charlottetown's Atlantic Technology Centre and move into its own purpose-built facility as it grows. "To my knowledge, it's the biggest announcement of an IT company coming to Prince Edward Island ever," said Mike Gillis, innovation director of the Innovation and Technology Association of P.E.I.

Source: CBC News

India taps Canada for gas as domestic production falters

For the first time, New Delhi is looking to the North American continent to secure its energy needs. India has started talks to import natural gas from Canada, the world's third-largest producer. Canada will be able to ship gas to India in a couple of years as construction of gas export terminals like the one at the Port of Kitimat in British Columbia is completed. Stagnating domestic output of coal and gas has necessitated increased imports by India, which is adding huge capacities in the power sector to boost economic growth. Canada used to supply huge quantities of gas to US through pipelines, but America's shale gas success has forced Toronto to scout for new markets, particularly in Asia. According to official energy statistics from the US government, Canada has traditionally supplied about 90% of US natural gas imports. In 2008, Canada's supplies reached 3.6 trillion cubic feet equaling 16% of US' total gas consumption, but this could fall to as low as 3% by 2030. Source: Financial Express

CAE to deploy an ATR full-flight simulator in India this year

CAE announced recently that it will install an ATR 42 /ATR 72 full-flight simulator (FFS) at its commercial aviation training centre in Bengaluru, India. The FFS will be ready for training in the summer of 2012. "This new ATR training capability further extends CAE's broad and deep commitment to the aviation community in India and the region," said Jeff Roberts, CAE's Group President, Civil Simulation Products, Training and Services. "Positioning this resource close to our ATR customers' base of operations will enable them to be more efficient while continuing to train the pilot skills and decision-making that enhances safety and effectiveness." CAE will relocate the ATR 42/72 FFS from its training centre in Brussels, Belgium. The FFS is modeled for the ATR72-500 and ATR42-300 configurations. The CAE training centre in Bengaluru is the first independent training centre to earn approval as a fixed-wing Type Rating Training Organization by India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Source: CAE Press Release

Deepak Chopra honoured with Canada India Foundation award

One of the world's leading thinkers on human empowerment, spiritual guide to the stars and a Time magazine honoree, Deepak Chopra was presented with the CIF Chanchlani Global Indian Award instituted by the Canada India Foundation (CIF). "The award was presented to Mr. Chopra at the Annual Award Gala, in Toronto, on April 21, 2012" said Barj Dhahan, Chair of CIF. As the fourth recipient of the Award, Deepak Chopra joins a select company of previous winners that includes Sam Pitroda, the pioneer of India's telecom revolution, Tulsi Tanti, trailblazer in the deployment of wind power and Ratan Tata, one of India's most respected industrialist and philanthropist. Source: Canada India Foundation

Bombardier bullish on Indian market

Bombardier, a Canada-based manufacturer of commercial aircraft and business jets has forecast that the Asia-Pacific region including China will take delivery of about 4,000 aircraft in the 20-to 149-seat category over the next twenty years of which 1,300 will be in India. India's large land mass, large population and strong economic performance are driving the growth in the country's domestic air travel, which is increasing proportionately with the development of the country's middle-class community, Bombardier said in a statement. "Business aviation in India is experiencing rapid growth. Bombardier's latest market forecast for the aviation industry predicts a total delivery of 1,330 business jets destined for India over the next 20 years," the statement said. Source: Economic Times

Montero Signs MOU with Star Earth Minerals of India for Rare Earths

Toronto-based Montero Mining and Exploration Ltd. announced that it has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Star Earth Minerals (Pvt) Limited, a rare earth chemical company based in Mumbai, India. The MOU's primary purpose is to lay out the basis of cooperation between Montero and Star Earth Minerals, with the aim of reaching an off-take agreement for Star to buy cerium carbonate and mixed rare earth from Montero. Montero Mining is a mineral exploration and development company engaged in the identification, acquisition, evaluation and exploration of mineral properties primarily focused on rare earth elements, phosphates and uranium in Tanzania, South Africa and Quebec. Star Earth Minerals is a producer of rare earth compounds. It supplies mixed rare earth oxides, nitrate, sulphates, carbonates used in chemical and ceramic industries, and has customers in Southeast Asia and Japan. Source: Marketwire

Calgary-based app maker Poynt looks to India, China for growth

Having established itself as a popular and handy app for millions of mobile users in North America and elsewhere, Calgary-based Poynt is now focusing its efforts on the Indian and Chinese markets. Poynt, available on a wide variety of phones and tablets, is a local search app that uses a device's GPS locator to direct users to nearby businesses, bars, gas stations and restaurants. Recently, it also launched a new feature for Canadians that lets users compare prices at local gas stations. With 14.5 million users, the company has come a long way since its launch in 2002, when phones couldn't keep up with developers' ideas for the app. Poynt operates in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia and recently launched in India. The plan is to launch in China later this year. Source: The Canadian Press

East West Petroleum Signs NELP-IX Production Sharing Contract in India

East West Petroleum Corp. announced the Company has signed a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Block AA-ONN-2010/2 with the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons of India in a signing ceremony held March 28th, 2012 in New Delhi. Partners in this NELP IX bid round Block are Oil India Ltd. (operator, 40%), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India (30%), and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (20%) and East West Petroleum (10%). The AA-ONN-2010/2 exploration Block lies in the Assam-Arakan Basin oil producing region of northeast India, a proven prolific region where more than 100 fields have been found. Source: Marketwire