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Canada China Resource Development Foundation
加中资源开发基金会



Press Release

New Canada China Resource Development Foundation Launched in Beijing during Canadian Prime Minister's Visit

International Trade Minister Day addresses CCRDF Official Launch Ceremony in China

Beijing China, December 4, 2009: At an official ceremony Wednesday afternoon in the compound of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) located just two blocks from the Forbidden City, the Hon. Stockwell Day, Canada's Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, was amongst dignitaries who addressed a crowd of Chinese and Canadian officials and business leaders gathered to celebrate the launch of the **Canada China Resource Development Foundation** (CCRDF), a new non-profit business association intended to foster increased natural resource and energy sector trade and investment between the two countries.

"The launch of the CCRDF comes at a time when Canada and China are entering a new era of closer relations and cooperation. That includes sharing the abundance of natural resources our two countries enjoy, and working together so that such resources are responsibly developed in adherence to our respective laws and environmental concerns," said Minister Day. "As such, our government certainly welcomes the advent of this private sector foundation for all it may do to help foster these goals. As highlighted by the success of Prime Minister Harper's visit to China, our government is committed to delivering results for Canada when it comes to our principled engagement of China."

Minister Day was introduced to attendees – *including former Chinese ambassador to Canada H.E. Mei Ping and his Canadian counterpart former Canadian ambassador Howard Balloch* - by CCRDF Acting Chair, the Hon. John Reynolds P.C., who echoed the International Trade Minister's comments in addressing those present. Mr. Reynolds noted that While China is the world's most populous country and soon to become the

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largest economy in the world, Canada is the world's second-largest country, surpassed only by Russia. Canada extends over almost 10 million km², occupying two-fifths of North America and 7 percent of the world's land mass. Forests and other wooded areas cover almost 50 percent of its land area. It has 10 percent of the world's forests and significant reserves of water, natural gas, oil, gold, coal, copper, iron ore, nickel, potash, uranium and zinc.

“Canada has much to offer the world. And it is the purpose of the CCRDF to encourage further cooperation with China into resource related trade and investment to the mutual benefit of both countries and peoples, all the while, respecting our environments, laws, and traditions,” added Mr. Reynolds.

Recognizing the vital importance of natural resources for present and future generations of peoples and governments in both Canada and China, the importance of natural resources to both economies and the necessity of using them wisely in order to sustain their benefits into the future, the CCRDF has been founded for the purpose of promoting economic and business cooperation between Canada and China in the field of resource development, with focus on the sectors of energy, mining, forestry, fishery, and agriculture.

The organization will utilize its member network to promote awareness and better understanding of Canada's importance as a resource powerhouse, its favourable environment for foreign direct investment from China into the resource and energy sector, developing a transparent understanding of laws and regulations governing foreign investment in Canada, as well as investment opportunities in specific projects. It will also serve as an information bridge between corporations, investors, and government agencies from both countries to negotiate cultural differences, achieve effective communication and mutual understanding for the purpose of increasing bilateral trade and investment activities.

Native Investment & Trade Association (NITA) President and CCRDF Director Calvin Helin, a First Nations lawyer and noted author of the book *Dances with Dependency* encouraging Canadian Aboriginal economic self-reliance, commented, "The CCRDF represents an opportunity to diversify the Canadian economy and attract foreign investment in a way that lifts the standard of living for all Canadians. Aboriginal people in particular are asset rich and cash poor. Most people do not realize that the 22 Aboriginal treaties in northern Canada impact over half the Canadian land mass - representing ownership or development influence on over 5 million square kilometres of land. This doesn't even include the First Nations power and influence over lands

and resources south of the 60th parallel. It is time to stand up and grow into the economic power that will make for better lives for Canada's most impoverished people. For reasons of the demographic tsunami outlined in my book, Canada needs to engage Aboriginal people fully into the economy - for the sake of maintaining the very prosperity and competitiveness that our country already enjoys. I believe there is nothing that Canada can do that would create more wealth for the benefit of everyone. And we must do this within the existing legal framework of our nation. International Trade Minister Stockwell Day has been a great proponent of Aboriginal development and encouraging stronger ties with Asia, so I'm very pleased the CCRDF was kicked off with his presence. What we have done today is reach across the Pacific to join hands with our friends and growing business allies in China to work together on our mutual interests for the gain of generations to come in both nations."

Added founding director John Park, President of Vancouver-based RCI Capital Group Inc. that established two major resource funds in 2009 as well as its **Aboriginal Resource Initiative**, "Over the coming months, as the CCRDF ramps up operations including a membership drive in both countries and the addition of several more directors, the first major events will be a China visit by Canada's Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo - his first official visit abroad - followed by a 50-member Aboriginal Team Canada business mission to China in May 2010, then a major natural resource delegation from China tentatively planned for mid 2010."

Over 2009, China – with foreign reserves of \$2 trillion – sent major purchase team delegations to such Western countries as Germany, UK, Switzerland, Spain, Brazil and Australia where it has invested billions at the encouragement of those governments. Park further emphasized that the CCRDF is in keeping with Foreign Affairs and International Trade's (FAIT) designation of China as a Global Commercial Strategy priority market and importance to attract Chinese FDI into Canada, certainly in instances where it may benefit Aboriginal Canadian stakeholders, but also on a whole, as recently demonstrated by China Investment Corporation's July 2009 investment into Teck Resources.

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NOTE: Photo(s) from CCRDF launch ceremony attached in jpeg format.