



The Canada-ASEAN Business Council Congratulates Canada's New Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland

Singapore – January 23, 2017

The Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) congratulates Minister Chrystia Freeland in her appointment as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, a move announced following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet shuffle on January 10th.

The CABC greatly looks forward to continuing its close relationship with Minister Freeland in her new role.

ASEAN, as a priority partner for the Canadian Government, is a key region for Canada's political and economic engagement. The importance of the region was highlighted via the opening of Canada's first [dedicated Mission to ASEAN in 2016](#).

Freeland has been a strong supporter of the CABC's activities during her time as Minister of International Trade, including participation in CABC's consultation with the ASEAN Ministers at 2016's [5th Canada-ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting](#), where the initial steps towards a Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement were initiated by Freeland, and providing remarks for the [3rd Canada-ASEAN Business Forum](#).

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

"The rapid economic growth and overall diversity of ASEAN's ten member-states present an immense opportunity for Minister Freeland to cement Canada's relationship with a vital Asian trading partner" remarked CABC President Wayne Farmer. "We look forward to the Minister's continued engagement with the region and with the CABC in her new role as Minister of Foreign Affairs".

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

About the Canada ASEAN Business Council

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

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