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NEWS ADVISORY

Canada's Minister of International Trade to make official visit to Detroit, June 20-21

Detroit, MI –The Government of Canada is committed to advancing gender equality and creating more opportunities for women to participate in the economy and create growth that works for everyone.

From June 20 to 21, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade, will lead the first delegation of Canadian business women to the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) National Conference and Business Fair in Detroit. This year's theme is Join Forces, Succeed Together!

While at the conference, Minister Champagne will host a reception for the Canadian delegation and invited U.S. business guests. The Minister will also deliver a keynote address at the WBENC final luncheon.

While in Detroit, the Minister will participate in a discussion with the leadership and the board of Directors of the Detroit Regional Chamber and also lead a round table discussion on Canadian Innovation, R&D and Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities.

The Minister will also take this opportunity to meet with automotive industry and other business leaders on both sides of the border who have an interest in trade and investment with Canada.

Quotes

“The Government of Canada recognizes that women are integral to international trade and to economic growth. Over the last few decades, trailblazing Canadian women have increasingly brought their energy, ideas, and entrepreneurial spirit to bear throughout Canada's business world. From small and medium-sized businesses, to large, multinational firms, Canadian business women are making a positive impact in markets all over the world.”

- François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade

Quick facts

- The WBENC National Conference and Business Fair is the world's largest conference targeted to women who want to access supplier diversity opportunities through U.S. Fortune 500 companies.
- The Global Affairs Canada's Business Women in International Trade (BWIT) program mandate is to link Canadian women entrepreneurs with international business opportunities to help spur their company's growth.



- The U.S.-Canada trade relationship has long been a model for the world: it is growing, it is balanced, it is fair and it supports growth, innovation and well-paying jobs in both countries.
- Millions of good, middle-class jobs on both sides of the border depend on our partnership. In the United States alone, nearly 9 million jobs are linked to Canadian trade and investment.

Associated links

- [Business Women in International Trade \(BWIT\)](#)
- [The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service](#)
- [WBENC 2018 National Conference & Business Fair](#)
- [Consulate General of Canada in Detroit, United States](#)

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Located in Detroit, Canada's Consulate General works to promote trade and investment links, to engage citizens and decision-makers on matters of shared interest, and to assist Canadians living and traveling in the US. More information is available at www.detroit.gc.ca, on Facebook [@CanadainDetroit](https://www.facebook.com/CanadainDetroit) and on Twitter [@CanCGDetroit](https://twitter.com/CanCGDetroit)

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