



For immediate release-
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CANADA EXPORT CENTRE - GRAND OPENING **Red Carpet Event to host Ministers, Mayors, Foreign Diplomats and major CEO's**

Vancouver, BC – *Canada Export Centre*, a privately owned company and the first of its kind in Canada is excited to announce the Grand Opening of the newly renovated 17,000 sq/ft exhibition hall and learning centre in Vancouver's old ScotiaBank tower. This red carpet event will take place on the evening of March 31, 2005 with many high-profile guests in attendance.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. honoured by mayors Larry Cambell and Doug McCallum (of Vancouver and Surrey, BC), as well as Federal and Provincial participation - from Jack Austin (Leader of the Government in the Senate), Stephen Owen (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State) and John Les (BC Minister of Small Business and Economic Development). Due to the magnitude of the occasion, 37 foreign consulates have committed their attendance, along with the heads of many of Canada's leading firms and up-an-comers alike. Overwhelmed with RSVP's, the guest list of 400 is already filled to capacity.

"We are thrilled to bring together such a distinguished and influential group of individuals under one roof for our opening event." *Canada Export Centre* President, Michael Lyons stated. "This red carpet gala mirrors the image *Canada Export Centre* will uphold and we are all delighted to officially begin operations."

The Canada Export Centre provides Canadian companies direct access to an international audience. Each month this massive facility, dedicated to showcasing Canadian products, services and expertise to the world market, will host thousands of conference and trade show attendees, trade mission delegates, business travelers and local business people, who come to discover and engage in trade with Canada.

"Aside from showcasing Canadian products to qualified international buyers, *Canada Export Centre* provides visitors with the relationships, ideas, and resources to turn interest into commerce" says Mark Mensing, CEO of *Canada Export Centre*. "This facility is now Canada's premiere physical destination for international trade."

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