



[Home](#) > [Media Room](#) > [News Releases](#) > [2013](#)

Canada and India Conclude Seventh Round of Negotiations Toward Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Canada-India trade agreement an important part of the Harper government's plan to open new markets and create jobs

February 6, 2013 - The Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, today announced the conclusion of the seventh round of negotiations toward a Canada-India comprehensive economic partnership agreement. Negotiations took place in New Delhi on February 5 and 6, 2013.

"Our government is committed to building on our already-strong ties with India to create a partnership that will lead to jobs, growth and long-term prosperity for workers in both our countries," said Minister Fast. "More than a million Canadians of Indian origin is clear proof of how both business and people-to-people ties are helping us deepen the Canada-India relationship."

Negotiations this week were productive and focused mostly on market access and related areas.

A Canada-India joint study concluded that a trade agreement between the two countries could boost Canada's economy by at least \$6 billion. That translates to almost 40,000 new jobs across the country, or a \$500 boost to the average Canadian family's annual income. Canada has identified core economic opportunities in India in the energy, agriculture, infrastructure and education sectors.

In less than six years, Canada has concluded free trade agreements with nine countries: Colombia, Honduras, Jordan, Panama, Peru and the European Free Trade Association member states of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. In addition to India, Canada is engaged in negotiations with large, dynamic and fast-growing markets, such as the European Union, Japan and the countries that comprise the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

- 30 -

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