

PM announces launch of trade negotiations with Morocco

Harper Government committed to creating new jobs and economic growth by opening markets for Canadian farmers and businesses

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Rabat, Morocco



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Prime Minister of Morocco, Abbas El Fassi, today announced the two countries will begin negotiations towards a free trade agreement. The announcement was made during a working visit to Morocco by Prime Minister Harper. The Prime Minister was joined by Peter Van Loan, Minister of International Trade, and Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture.

"The economy remains our Government's number one priority," said Prime Minister Harper. "A free trade agreement with Morocco would be Canada's first with a country on the African continent, and is another example of how our Government is pushing to create jobs and economic growth through trade liberalization."

Canada and Morocco already enjoy a dynamic relationship with close cultural and linguistic ties. A Canada-Morocco free trade agreement would not only enhance the existing relationship, but would open new markets, encourage economic growth and create jobs while helping our farmers and businesses compete globally.

Canadian businesses have identified Morocco as a priority market for a free trade

agreement. The Harper Government will continue to engage all stakeholders to ensure that their interests and concerns are taken into account during the negotiations.