



15 June 2007

### **WTCAK Announces New Canada-Focused Trade Development Program**

Dear Members and Friends of the Center:

World Trade Center Alaska (WTCAK) has launched a new trade development program that is focused on expanding business opportunities between Alaska and Canada. The ***Canada: Opportunities Next Door*** program seeks to build upon the already strong foundation of cross-border commercial ties that have kept Canada one of the state's top trading partners for many decades. The program is part of the Center's portfolio of focused trade development efforts that include Japan, China, Korea and emerging markets.

Canada has long been Alaska's third largest export market. In 2005, it fell to the fourth position as the state's trade with China surged ahead. 2006 was a banner year for Alaskan exports to Canada, reaching \$445 million, a one hundred percent increase over the previous year. This growth in export values was driven primarily by the higher prices received by mineral exporters.

Alaska and Canada have strong commercial ties that extend beyond just exports. Canadian firms are major investors in Alaska's natural resource development and are active explorers for minerals, metals and energy. Other industries, including tourism, benefit from the close ties between our state and Canada.

For an overview of the size and significance of Canada's participation in Alaska's international trade economy, please click here to see the [article just published in the Alaska Journal of Commerce](#). Later this month, watch your inboxes for a more detailed report now being prepared by WTCAK.

In September, WTCAK and the U.S. Commercial Service will conduct a trade mission to Edmonton and Calgary. The mission will explore potential business opportunities for Alaskan companies and facilitate contacts with Canadian business executives and government officials. For more information about the trade mission, please contact the Center.

If you are interested in learning more about the ***Canada: Opportunities Next Door*** program, call WTCAK on 278-7233 or drop us an email: [info@wtcak.org](mailto:info@wtcak.org)

Best Regards,

*Greg Wolf*

Executive Director