

## Media Releases 2009

### The Mutual Administration Assistance Agreement in Customs matters signed between Republic of South Africa and Canada

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**Pretoria, 30 October 2009** - An Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of South Africa and Canada regarding Mutual Assistance between their Customs Administrations was signed today, Friday, 30 October 2009 by South African Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and the Canadian High Commissioner to South Africa, Ms Ms Adèle Dion.



**Photo:** Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and the Canadian High Commissioner to South Africa, Ms Adèle Dion.

Trade and investment between South Africa and Canada has steadily grown since 1994, with South Africa seen as an important destination for exports on the African continent. South Africa has to date signed seventeen (17) agreements in Custom Administration with various countries.

The mutual administration assistance agreement consists of various forms of practical cooperation, including assisting in the correct application of Customs laws and the appearance of Customs officers as witnesses or experts in Court cases in other countries.

The agreement signed also enables for the advance electronic transmission of Customs data between South Africa and Canada. This presents the two countries with two significant advantages: It allows for comparing of data at a transactional level and identifies non-compliance but also helps in identifying and rewarding compliant traders.

Customs administrations have had to keep pace with the tremendous increase in international trade and transport, the growing role of trans-frontier organised crime, and the threat of terrorism. National and international cooperation has therefore become essential, hence the need for cooperation with other Customs administrations and other key role-players in the international supply chain.

In 2006, South Africa was the top export destination in Africa of Canadian goods. This accounted for 33.5% of total exports of Canadian goods to Africa. South Africa ranked second at 10%, after Algeria's 60.8%, as the import origin for African goods imported into Canada. Trade between South Africa and Canada totalled approximately R10, 5bn (SA exports: R3, 1bn and Canada exports: R7, 3bn) in 2008.