

## PM announces measures to strengthen Canada's engagement with Costa Rica

11 August 2011

San José, Costa Rica



Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced the launch of negotiations to modernize the existing free trade agreement between Canada and Costa Rica, as well as the signing of an air transportation agreement and a tax information exchange agreement between the two countries. The announcements were made during a working visit with President Laura Chinchilla in San José, Costa Rica.

"Canada and Costa Rica enjoy excellent bilateral relations. In fact, this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Canadian Embassy in San José," said the Prime Minister. "By removing trade barriers, facilitating air travel between our countries and working together to combat tax evasion, the measures announced today will lead to new opportunities and stronger economies for both Canadians and Costa Ricans."

Today's announcements will have far-reaching benefits for Canada and Costa Rica. Most notably:

- Negotiations towards the modernization of the Canada-Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement will aim to accelerate the elimination of tariffs for agricultural and industrial goods, increase market access and broaden the agreement to cover other areas, such as cross-border trade in services,

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