



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

Trade Minister meets Canadian Trade Minister

September 27, 2024: Senator the Honourable, Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry met earlier today (27.09.2024) with the Honourable Mary Ng PC MP, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development of Canada in Toronto.

During her meeting with Minister Ng, Minister Gopee-Scoon indicated that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognizes Canada as an important trading partner and market for the further promotion and expansion of Trinidad and Tobago's exports of goods and services. Minister Gopee-Scoon also noted the importance of the Caribbean-Canada Trade Agreement (CARIBCAN), which has been in effect since June 15, 1986, and was recently extended to 2033, and which permits eligible products from Trinidad and Tobago non-reciprocal, duty-free treatment by Canada.

As avid advocates for increased inclusivity, particularly for women in the economy, both Ministers detailed the extensive work they are currently undertaking in their respective jurisdictions. Minister Gopee-Scoon highlighted the various successes of the women on Trinidad and Tobago's SheTradesHub. Ideas were also exchanged to explore additional avenues to increase women's participation in trade.

Discussions also surrounded Trinidad and Tobago's diversification thrust with Minister Gopee-Scoon elaborating on the many opportunities for investment with the recent implementation of Special Economic Zones Regime. She also revealed the growth of the Business Process Outsourcing sector in Trinidad and Tobago and the potential for further expansion, on account of our highly skilled and English-speaking workforce.

Minister Gopee-Scoon is currently in Canada leading a trade mission of 19 businesses to Canada to explore new business opportunities for Trinidad and Tobago in the Canadian market. This includes sourcing possible raw material and finish products for local producers, making strategic business and logistical contacts (distributors, market agents and companies) and increasing awareness of Canada's business contacts to Trinidad and Tobago's available manufactured products.

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