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PEI First Nation Chiefs Join Mission to China

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PEI First Nation Chiefs, Brian Francis and Matilda Ramjattan, have joined Canada's Premiers in their trade mission to China. The mission is led by PEI Premier Robert Ghiz, who is also Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs.

"China is Canada's second-largest trading partner," said Chief Matilda Ramjattan of the Lennox Island First Nation. "This mission gives us an opportunity to make essential connections that will open the door to the export of PEI Mi'kmaq-made products to China." Chief Ramjattan is also representing Minigoo Fisheries at numerous events during the mission.

While the PEI aspect of the mission is visiting a number of important trading hubs, the Chiefs are only taking part in the Beijing leg of the mission.

"For us, taking part in the Beijing meetings is about opening the door for greater trade in the future," said Chief Brian Francis of the Abegweit First Nation. "We are establishing the essential government and business contacts that will enable us to access this important market. We are also taking part in in-depth trade briefings put on by the Embassy of Canada to China that will give us the know-how to thrive in this market."

Abegweit and Lennox Island will be collaborating on a number of economic development initiatives in the future. Trade to China, as well as potential business investment from China, is of considerable interest.

Numerous businesses from PEI, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Manitoba are taking part in the mission, as are Premier Kathleen Wynne of Ontario and Premier Philippe Couillard of Quebec.

Chiefs Francis and Ramjattan joined the trade mission on October 28th and return to Canada on November 3rd.

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