



TURKS AND CAICOS FRIENDSHIP MISSION TO CANADA

OTTAWA – Today, Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Development welcome an official delegation the Turks and Caicos Islands to Canada. This delegation, here on a “friendship mission,” hopes to build stronger relations between our two countries.

Indeed, Mr. Goldring believes that Canada and the Turks and Caicos Islands should become increasingly engaged through social, cultural, and economic efforts. Closer association is not simply a want, but self-evident imperative. Mr. Goldring’s report, *Atlantic Trade with the Caribbean*, focused on stronger relations and was presented at the United Nations Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization earlier this month by Mr. Daniel Malcolm of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The idea of forming closer associations with the Turks and Caicos Islands is far from new; Canada first courted the idea in 1917, under the leadership of Prime Minister Robert Borden. He, like Mr. Goldring and the delegation, believe this vision is most agreeable and mutually beneficial.

The benefits that Canada could gain from closer associations include, but are not limited to: strengthened trade, economic development, a possible reliable Caribbean deep-water port for regional transshipment, a Canadian platform for DART, and better international security. Likewise, for the Turks and Caicos Islands: infrastructure development, a diversified economy with less of the seasonal volatility of tourism, and increased potential for post-secondary education.

Clearly, we have much to gain through closer association. Mr. Goldring welcomes the delegation, and enthusiastically awaits the results of these deliberations.

Canada’s future in the Caribbean should be one of enhanced political, economic, and humanitarian relationships. A Canadian platform of distribution and engagement in the Caribbean would help pursue this goal.

Please see attached release, 13 May 2015.

-30-

**For further information, contact the Office of Peter Goldring at
613-992-3821 or peter.goldring.a2@parl.gc.ca www.petergoldring.ca**
