

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel and Expenses
(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Trade and Export Development	
Title of Travel	Committee of Internal Trade Meeting	
Location	Ottawa, Ontario	
Date(s)	March 29-30, 2026	
Participants	Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Trade and Export Development Jodi Banks, Deputy Minister of Trade and Export Development Aaron Wirth, Assistant Deputy Minister, Trade and Export Development Michelle Lang, Chief of Staff to Minister Kaeding	
Purpose of Travel	Participate in the in-person Committee on Internal Trade meeting.	
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants		
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)		\$5,839.01
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)		\$94.63
Accommodation (including room charges and all related taxes and fees)		\$1,002.56
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)		\$306.00
Conference & Registration Fees		\$0.00
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)		\$60.00
	Subtotal	\$7,302.20
General Travel Expenditures		
Business Hosting Expenses (expenses for luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)		\$0.00
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)		\$0.00
	Subtotal	\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$7,302.20

Overview of Travel and Objectives

The Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) is responsible for the implementation of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and includes the Ministers responsible for internal trade of each Party including the federal government and each province and territory.

CIT convened to discuss and advance progress on the priorities identified at the January 29, 2026 First Ministers Meeting. Priorities include advancing mutual recognition, labour mobility, facilitating interprovincial movement in the housing and construction sectors, and the reduction of trade barriers in food, agriculture, and alcoholic beverages.

Minister Kaeding led the discussion about advancing direct-to-consumer (DTC) alcohol sales and updated the table on progress.

Travel Activity

Minister Kaeding participated in all agenda items including discussions on:

- Expanding the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement (CMRA) to the service sector.
- Progress on negotiating an Operating Agreement enabling direct to consumer sales of alcoholic beverages.
- Advancing labour mobility, including strengthening labour mobility provisions in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), and hearing progress from the Forum of Labour Market Ministers on digital verification of credentials and recognizing priority health and safety training requirements.
- Hearing progress from the FPT Forum of Housing on meeting First Ministers' direction in the housing sector.
- An update on the Domestic Trade Commissioners Network.

Ministers announced progress on all agenda items including:

- Committing to expand the CMRA to cover the service sector by the end of 2026, and the release of the CMRA User Guide.
- Welcoming the entry into force of the CFTA Financial Services chapter.
- Committing to completing ongoing negotiations to strengthen labour mobility provisions in the CFTA by June 2026.
- The commitment of the jurisdictions is to continue implementing the DTC Memorandum of Understanding. Work continues to enable DTC for all participating jurisdictions by May 2026, so consumers can order their favourite Canadian wine, spirit, beer or other alcoholic beverage directly from the producer, for personal consumption.
- Launching the Domestic Trade Commissioners Network, which will collaborate on domestic trade missions and identify other opportunities to help small and medium businesses grow across Canada.

The communiqué from CIT Ministers released following the meeting is available on the CFTA website:

[COMMUNIQUÉ – MARCH 30, 2026 COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL TRADE MEETING - Canadian Free Trade Agreement | Accord de libre-échange canadien](#)

The CMRA User Guide can be found here:

[Microsoft Word - CMRA User Guide_EN.docx](#)