



**“Britain is Open for Business” Doing Business with the UK and Canada - Conference**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, 9 am – 3:30 pm, Ontario Investment and Trade Centre, Toronto, ON

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***Mr. Nick Baird, Chief Executive of UK Trade & Investment***

Nick Baird was appointed Chief Executive of UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) in September 2011 and has served on the FCO Board since 2009.

Prior to this, Nick was Director General, Europe and Globalisation, leading the FCO's work on Europe, global economic issues, migration and consular. Nick was Ambassador to Turkey from 2006 to 2009, leading work on Turkey's EU process and regional conflicts.

Chief Executive, UK Trade & Investment is responsible for:

- leading the development of the new strategy
- implementing UKTI's current strategy
- supporting the work of the Minister of State for Trade & Investment, Lord Green
- providing clear leadership to UKTI to help face up to the challenges and opportunities of globalisation and economic turbulence



***Mr. Howard Drake OBE, High Commissioner to Canada, British High Commission to Canada***

Howard Drake was appointed British High Commissioner to Canada in June 2013. Prior to taking up his current position, Howard served as Her Majesty's British High Commissioner to Jamaica as well as non-resident British High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. From 2005 to 2009 Howard served as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Chile. His career in HM Diplomatic Service has focussed on political and commercial work, including heading the UK's inward investment operation in the US from 1997 to 2002 and earlier political assignments in Singapore and Chile. In London Howard has worked on European Union affairs and counter-proliferation, and served as Assistant Director for Human Resources.

***British High Commissioner to Canada***

The High Commissioner is the UK government's representative in a Commonwealth nation. They are responsible for the direction and work of the High Commission and its Deputy High Commissions and/or Consulates, including political work, trade and investment, press and cultural relations, and visa and consular services.



***Mr. Jim Feir, Director and Senior Trade Commissioner Ontario Region, Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development Canada***

Mr. Jim Feir (BComm, Honours, University of Manitoba, 1975) joined the then Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Trade Commissioner Service, in 1975 and has served abroad in Seoul, Havana, Melbourne, Lisbon, Singapore and Sydney. From 1998 to 2000, he served for a second time in Seoul, as Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) and Consul. In Ottawa, he undertook assignments in the Trade Commissioner Service Personnel Division and the Japan Trade Development Division. From 2000 to 2002, he served in Hong Kong, as Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner and was appointed as Canada's Consul General in Guangzhou, China in August 2002. From 2005 to August 2009 he was Deputy Consul General and Senior Trade Commissioner at the Consulate General of Canada in Los Angeles. Mr. Feir leads a team of professional trade commissioners assisting and encouraging Ontario firms and organizations to engage in global business opportunities and pursue innovation and technology collaborations - all designed to enhance Canadian competitiveness.



***Mr. George Irving, President, Rock Technical***

Mr. George Irving from Rock Technical George Irving Born- 1958 in Newcastle upon Tyne, proud husband, father of three children and grandfather to 2 grandchildren. Hobbies include photography and ornithology. I am a Christian and belong to Bethel church Sarnia where we have a lot of friends who have welcomed us to Canada and been of great support over the years.

