

Immediate release

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**EXPLANATORY NOTES RELATING TO PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON
HARMONIZED SALES TAX AND STREAMLINED GST**

Finance Minister Paul Martin today released detailed explanatory notes relating to the amendments included in Bill C-70 which was tabled on December 2, 1996.

Bill C-70 includes measures to implement the agreements between the federal government and the governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador to harmonize the federal and provincial sales taxes, effective April 1, 1997. It also incorporates proposed changes to the GST which were announced in April and October 1996, including amendments to implement the GST rebate on books for libraries, schools and certain other institutions.

The explanatory notes describe the proposed amendments, clause by clause, for the assistance of Members of Parliament and Senators, as well as businesses and their professional advisors.

Copies of the explanatory notes are available from the Department of Finance Distribution Centre at (613) 995-2855 at a cost of \$43.00.

For further information:

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