



CANADA-UAE
BUSINESS COUNCIL
مجلس الأعمال الكندي الإماراتي

Suite 2700, TD Canada Trust Tower
161 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario,
Canada M5J 2S1

T +1 905 347-4103

E info@canadauaebusiness.org

Canada Commits to World Expo 2020 Dubai

Statements from Canada-UAE Business Council (CUBC) Leaders

“I’m delighted to hear that Canada will join other G20 countries at World Expo 2020 Dubai. Canadians understand firsthand the significance of World’s Fairs. We hosted two of our own – Expo ’67 in Montreal and Expo ’86 in Vancouver. These were transformative events that brought Canadians and the world together, strengthened our nation from coast to coast, and showed the world what Canada could offer. We celebrated 100 years of confederation at Expo ’67; the UAE will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with World Expo 2020 Dubai.

By participating in World Expo 2020 Dubai, we are supporting the United Arab Emirates as it becomes the first country to host a World Expo in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. We are also showing up at an important international trade show. Canadian innovations, business, and culture will take centre stage. Our cultural and business ties will deepen with the UAE, and with more than 200 other nations participating in World Expo 2020 Dubai.

During my time as the Co-Chair of the Canada-UAE Business Council, I have been exposed to clear opportunities for Canada in the UAE and broader region. Opportunities in engineering, construction, health, and education stand out. There is untapped potential for Canada to realize as we work towards further diversifying our trade and investment. I am honoured to volunteer with the CUBC. It’s a passion project to learn more about a relatively unknown country to Canadians and to advance relations between two like-minded nations.”

- The Honourable Jean Charest, Co-Chair, Canada-UAE Business Council and Partner, McCarthy Tetrault

“I’d like to congratulate Canada and welcome all Canadians to join the world at World Expo 2020 Dubai from October 2020 to April 2021. Canada and the UAE share many of the same values such as tolerance, cultural diversity, women’s and youth empowerment, support for SMEs and innovation, and an emphasis on education and healthcare. We are natural allies and friends. Our companies already do a significant amount of business together and there is untapped potential to do much more.

The World Expo in Dubai presents an opportunity for Canadians to experience UAE culture and to see that our country truly is a hub to emerging markets, representing over 3 billion customers for Canadian businesses. Like Canada, we are diverse and focused on strong trade partnerships with other nations. I am looking forward to supporting the Canadian presence at World Expo 2020 through my role as the Co-Chair of the Canada-UAE Business

Council. It is a great honour to work on ties between our two great nations. I'd like to thank everyone at the CUBC and our partners for making Canada's participation possible."

- **Musabbeh Al Kaabi, Co-Chair, Canada-United Arab Emirates Business Council, and CEO, Petroleum and Petrochemicals, Mubadala**

"I'd like to thank Canada's Minister of International Trade Diversification, Jim Carr, for his recent announcement that Canada will join the rest of the world at World Expo 2020. We've worked hard with our partners to communicate the significance of Canada's participation in World Expo 2020 Dubai. Every Canadian we spoke with understood the relevance of Expo 2020 and the fit of the event with Canada's trade diversification agenda.

The UAE is an international business hub to some of the fastest growing regions in the world. Approximately 3.2 billion people with a collective GDP of more than USD 6.5 trillion are within an 8-hour flight of the UAE. Exhibiting countries at the Expo will raise their cultural profiles, showcase innovations, and highlight economic opportunities. Indeed, national pavilions typically celebrate the best of a country's ingenuity. All activities and exhibits will relate to the Expo 2020 theme, "Connecting Minds. Creating the Future."

I look forward to seeing what Canada puts forward with its pavilion. The CUBC is available to support Canada's participation where required. I'd like to thank CUBC Co-Chairs, The Honourable Jean Charest and Musabbeh Al Kaabi for their vision. I'd also like to thank the diplomats, and their teams, who are working hard on Canada-UAE relations: His Excellency Fahad Al Raqbani, UAE Ambassador to Canada; His Excellency Masud Husain, Canadian Ambassador to the UAE; His Excellency Sultan Al-Harbi, Consul General of the UAE to Toronto; Her Excellency Marcy Grossman, Consul General of Canada to Dubai; and, Emanuel Kamarianakis, past Consul General of Canada to Dubai.

- **Mustafa Sahin, President and Executive Director, Canada-United Arab Emirates Business Council**