

Pro-U.S. rallies expected in Canada Saturday



CTV.ca News Staff

Updated: Fri, Mar. 28 2003 8:04 PM ET

Pro-coalition rallies are expected to take place across Canada on Saturday, as Canadians and Americans seek to ease rising tensions between the two neighbours.

The relationship between Canada and the United States has slowly been disintegrated over Canada's refusal to join the U.S.-led war in Iraq without United Nations approval.

Many south of the border are also upset with anti-American comments made by top Canadian politicians. In the most recent such incident, Natural Resources Minister Herb Dhaliwal characterized Bush as a "failed statesman." He sought to clarify those comments on Friday, saying they were misconstrued.

The damage might already be done, and that's why rallies pro-American rallies are planned to take place in Ottawa, Red Deer, Alta., and Winnipeg on Saturday. On Sunday, similar demonstrations will be held in Calgary and Vancouver.

"You can agree or disagree with the war, but when they start calling Bush Hitler, a Nazi, it's gone too far, it's gone overboard" said Mike Cancade, an organizer of a rally in Winnipeg on Saturday.

On Friday, hundreds of people took part in a pro-American rally in southern Alberta. The farming community of Picture Butte, about 100 kilometres north of the border, raised Canadian and American flags.

Calgarian Audrey Hawthorne said she thinks Canada should back the U.S. no matter what and has ordered a custom-made \$130 jacket with the U.S., Alberta and Canadian flags sewn over the heart to express her personal support.

"I have a lot of friends in the U.S. and when I go down there to visit them in May, I want to show that support," she told The Canadian Press.

Organizers hope the rallies this weekend will stay peaceful. Last Saturday in Calgary, tempers flared when pro-U.S. supporters crashed a peace rally.

"I just hope that all sides will respect the views of others and stay away from the violence and silliness that goes with it," said Alliance member of Parliament Myron Thompson, who is scheduled to speak at the Sunday rally at the University of Calgary.

With a report from The Canadian Press

MOL.A

GlobeinvestorGOLD.com

Serious tools for
serious investors.