

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

As Minister for International Trade, I am pleased to present the 2005 edition of *Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities*, which outlines Canada's market access objectives for 2005 and highlights the successes achieved during the previous year.

Canada's economic prosperity depends on its success as a trading nation: an estimated one out of every four jobs in Canada is linked to our international trade activities. These activities no longer limit themselves to the traditional imports and exports of goods and services. International Trade also encompasses investment, joint commercial collaborations, technology partnerships and all the other elements of global value chains, the multi-national and regional networks of finance, production and distribution. As manufacturing integrates across borders and trading between branches of the same firm continues to expand, it is becoming increasingly difficult to identify where the border of our economy actually lies. Our objective in 2005 is to contribute to Canadian prosperity reflecting this new complexity of the international economy while pursuing traditional opportunities.

In 2005, our relationship with the United States will continue to be of paramount importance. Canada and the United States have the world's most successful commercial relationship, with almost \$2 billion in goods and services exchanged daily. But, in a dynamic world economy, we must work continuously to build this long-standing relationship. While securing and deepening our access to the United States market is a constant challenge, it is also an opportunity.

Since September 2001, the movement of goods and people across the Canada-United States border has become a particular concern for Canadian business. In part to address these concerns, a New Partnership was announced by the Prime Minister and President Bush in November 2004. This initiative will build on both NAFTA and the Smart Border Accord to lay out an agenda for expanding economic opportunities, prosperity and competitiveness in North America. It will strike a balance between addressing security



concerns and addressing commercially important measures to facilitate cross-border trade. On March 23, 2005, Prime Minister Martin and Presidents Bush and Fox agreed to pursue this initiative on a trilateral basis.

Mexico also features prominently on our North American agenda. Since the inception of NAFTA in 1994, Mexico has become Canada's sixth largest export market and Canada has become Mexico's second largest. To build on this momentum, the Prime Minister and President Fox of Mexico launched the Canada-Mexico Partnership in October 2004. This is a high level public-private forum which will strengthen bilateral economic and policy cooperation. Bringing together business leaders, key economic actors and senior policy makers, the Canada-Mexico Partnership will foster strategic networks and enable the business communities and governments to respond to the challenges of sustaining and augmenting the level of prosperity and competitiveness that the NAFTA relationship has helped to build.

An important shift in the global distribution of wealth and influence is underway beyond our continent. Countries formerly considered to be "developing" are becoming more influential, with growing middle classes and rising production, purchasing power, human capital and financial strength. These are markets or regions experiencing rapid and