

HON. JOHN CROSBIE - ST. JOHN'S

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU TODAY IN ST. JOHN'S AS WE GET AN EARLY KICK-OFF TO EXPORT MONTH IN CANADA.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, MY ROLE AS MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE TAKES ME FAR AND WIDE AROUND THE GLOBE.

LAST WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SPEAKING IN THE FAR EAST IN HONG KONG - AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SO, TODAY'S LUNCHEON CAN BE SEEN AS A MIRROR IMAGE, SPEAKING HERE IN THE FAR EAST OF CANADA AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG-CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

WE MUST NOT ONLY SALUTE THE HONG KONG CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT, I ALSO BELIEVE THANKS ARE IN ORDER FOR THE CANADA EXPORT TRADE MONTH COMMITTEE IN NEWFOUNDLAND, WHICH FIRST PROPOSED THE IDEA.