

CANADA IS A FEDERAL STATE, AND BOTH THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS WANT TO EXPAND TRADE. FOR THAT REASON I AM ACCOMPANIED HERE TODAY BY THE HONOURABLE BOB ANDREW, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN.

LAST YEAR I INVITED YOU TO COME TO CANADA FOR EXPO 86. YOU ACCEPTED AND WE ARE ALL DELIGHTED BY THE RESULTS. YOUR PAVILIONS ARE SOME OF THE POPULAR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXPOSITION. I AM DELIGHTED BECAUSE I HOPE IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ASEAN TO KNOW CANADA BETTER, PARTICULARLY OUR WESTERN PROVINCES, WHENCE COMES SO MUCH OF THE INTEREST IN YOUR REGION --AND THAT IT WILL MAKE YOUR COUNTRIES AND YOUR PRODUCTS BETTER KNOWN TO THE EXPECTED TWENTY MILLION PEOPLE WHO WILL VISIT THE SITE AND THE MILLIONS MORE WHO WILL READ OF THE SHOW AND SEE IT ON TELEVISION.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXPO, WE WILL BE CONVENING THE CANADA-ASEAN FORUM IN BOTH VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER. THIS CANADIAN INITIATIVE IS INTENDED TO BRING TOGETHER SENIOR BUSINESSMEN TO LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED COOPERATION THROUGH JOINT VENTURES. WE WILL BE TOUCHING ON THIS SUBJECT LATER ON IN OUR DELIBERATIONS.