

- As Hong Kong drafted its Bill of Rights, we seconded a senior justice of the Federal Court to Hong Kong to assist in drafting that important document. Judge Strayer's contribution is a demonstration of our commitment to providing expertise as Hong Kong builds its own durable and democratic institutions.

- We have initiated discussions designed to put in place an exchange program of officials between our two governments. This would enable young leaders to gain familiarity with the Canadian approach to the regulation of financial institutions, broadcasting, and transport.

- Canada and Hong Kong have entered into discussions of a film co-production agreement.

- And after the conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations, we will explore a financial market access agreement whereby the existing environment governing financial institutions in Hong Kong is preserved.

- Finally, Canada believes strongly that Hong Kong should participate in the emerging web of regional institutions. This includes Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation and the Pacific Economic Conference. We also strongly support Hong Kong's participation in other international agencies, including the GATT and OECD.

Your Excellency, Canada's commitment to, and our faith in, the future of Hong Kong is unwavering. We have made this clear to both the British and Chinese governments. We are prepared to do our part to ensure that Hong Kong's future remains bright and that the relationship between us continues to be strong and to grow.

Your Excellency, if you take back one message to the people of Hong Kong, let it be a clear and simple one: that Canada is committed to your success, and that we will stand by you faithfully in the critical years which lie ahead.