

Our exporters, of course, have always been internationally competitive. You couldn't stay in the business if you were not. And in my view the export community should have a stronger voice in shaping national economic policy - not only trade policy, but the full range of our domestic policies which affect our ability to compete.

My introduction to the International Trade portfolio has been a busy one. The next several months promise to be just as active. I can promise you during that period and beyond, that together, we will open the doors to new markets and develop those markets to sell more goods and services.

Mr. Bergeron, let's get on with the Canada Export Awards.