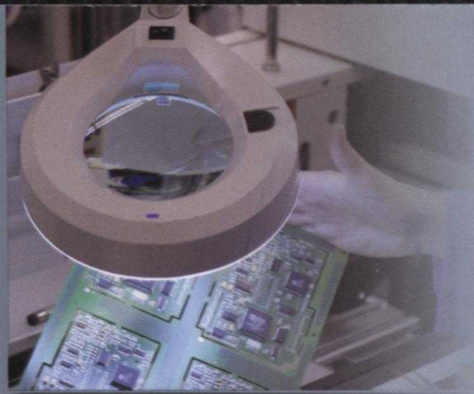
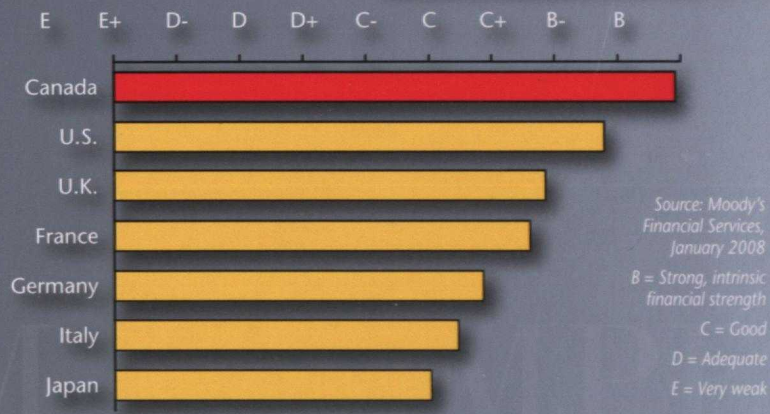
THE CANADIAN INNOVATION ADVANTAGE – STRONG FUNDAMENTALS



Innovation flourishes in a positive overall business environment and when it comes to the fundamentals, Canada is getting it right.

- Low inflation, low interest rates and low debt
- Supportive regulatory policies
- High employment rates
- Corporate tax framework among the best in the world
- Stable and globally competitive financial services sector
- Sophisticated system of intellectual property protection
- Advanced transportation infrastructure
- Fully integrated with North American supply chains (NAFTA)

Moody's Average Bank Financial-Strength Rating



Source: Moody's Financial Services, January 2008

B = Strong, intrinsic financial strength

C = Good

D = Adequate

E = Very weak

LEADING THE G7

Leading global organizations including the OECD continue to recognize Canada as the strongest economic performer in the G7.

- Highest rate of growth since 2000
- Strongest job creation record for past decade
- Lowest payroll taxes
- Lowest business costs (calculated at par with the US$)
- Lowest debt to GDP ratio
- For more than a decade, the G7 member with consistent national government surpluses

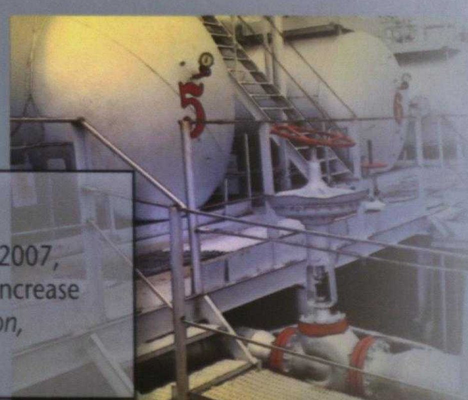
CANADA RANKS #1 IN THE G7 AS "THE BEST PLACE TO INVEST AND DO BUSINESS"

according to the *Economist Intelligence Unit's* global business rankings forecast 2008-2012.

OUR PEOPLE

Canada's economy is driven by talented and enterprising people with the education and expertise to compete.

- Canada has a highly educated and skilled knowledge workforce. It ranks #1 in the OECD for the proportion of the population with post-secondary education and Canada spends more on education, as a percentage of GDP, than any other country in the world.
- In a business world gone global, Canada's multicultural work force provides a great advantage for firms working internationally. More than 200 languages are spoken in Canada and Canadian knowledge workers have strong abilities to communicate across cultures.



INVESTORS VALUE CANADIAN COMPANIES

Canada has one of the highest flows of venture capital investment in the OECD. In 2007, venture capital firms invested $2.1 billion into innovative Canadian companies, an increase of 21% from 2006 investments. (*Canadian Venture Capital & Private Equity Association, February 12, 2008*)