

Creative. Competitive. Canada



An interview with the Honourable Stockwell Day, Canada's Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway

Why should foreign investors consider Canada as their top investment destination?

There are many reasons. Canada boasts multiple advantages and unparalleled potential—a place where businesses can compete on a global scale.

- We have a **people advantage**: Canada is a nation of highly skilled workers, **ranking #1 in the OECD in higher education achievement**.
- We have a **business environment advantage**: The Economic Intelligence Unit forecasts Canada as the **#1 place to do business in the G7 for the next five years**.
- We have a **tax advantage**: Canada offers businesses low tax rates, boasting the **lowest payroll taxes among the G7 countries**.
- We have a **financial advantage**: The World Economic Forum rates Canada's banking system as the **soundest in the world. No bank bailouts needed**.
- We have an **economic advantage**: The International Monetary Fund concluded, in 2009, that Canada is better placed than most to weather the current global financial turbulence.
- We have the **North American Free Trade Agreement advantage**: NAFTA gives investors access to more than 444 million consumers in North America—a combined GDP of more than US\$16.9 trillion.
- We have the **transportation advantage**: Canada has a highly developed and sophisticated transportation network.
- We have the **lifestyle advantage**: World-class universities, a universally acclaimed healthcare system and clean, friendly cities make Canada a great place to invest, work, live and raise a family.
- We have a **strong focus on sustainable development**: Our Budget 2009 includes new measures, totaling almost \$2.4 billion, to support a cleaner and more sustainable environment. Specifically, the budget provides \$1 billion over five years for a new Green Infrastructure Fund to

support green infrastructure projects and another \$1 billion over five years for clean energy research and demonstration projects.

Simply put, Canada is an island of stability in tough economic times.

And how will Canada weather the economic recession gripping the world?

We are not immune from what's happening in the world, but Canada is in much better shape to face this downturn.

- Economists forecast that our economy will continue to outperform other G7 economies over the next two years.
- We've just passed legislation for a massive stimulus package of almost \$30 billion, which is unprecedented in Canadian history.
- The Government is also ensuring that the complementary forms of credit provided through its Crown agencies, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), are available to counter the effects of the credit crunch.
- Most importantly, Canada has registered 11 years of budget surpluses between 1997-2007 and its debt-to-GDP ratio will remain the lowest among G7 economies.
- As the world economy recovers, other G7 countries will face longer periods of deficits and higher borrowing costs. That situation will not happen in Canada. We will emerge earlier and stronger from the global recession.

What advantages do foreign investors get by undertaking research and development in Canada?

Canada is a world leader when it comes to investing in R&D:

- Our Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax incentives program is the largest

THE BRIEF

NAME

Stockwell Day

WINS

1986-2000:

Member of the Legislative Assembly, Red Deer North, Alberta

2000-present:

Member of Parliament, Okanagan-Coquihalla, British Columbia