

# FOREWORD

## CANADA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

Canada is a nation of well-educated, enterprising and resourceful people. The country is endowed with abundant natural resources and favoured with political stability, a sound economy and an outstanding quality of life. It is influential in international affairs, especially in areas of trade and investment, humanitarian assistance and international peacekeeping. Canada exerts this influence through its membership in numerous international organizations. It is a member of the G7 group of the world's leading industrialized nations as well as the British Commonwealth and La Francophonie. It participates actively in the affairs of the United Nations.

From its earliest beginnings, Canada has been an outward-looking nation. The pioneers who first arrived from Europe brought capital with them from their homelands. Many were backed by overseas partners. But even with help from abroad, the early Canadians had to rely on their own resourcefulness and ingenuity to tame a vast and rugged territory. They quickly became experts in transportation and communications. They learned from firsthand experience about the essential role that infrastructure plays in economic development. And they applied those skills to bind a geographically-dispersed string of settlements into a true nation.

More recent waves of immigrants have come from every corner of the world. They came to build new lives in an

environment without class boundaries, where competence, hard work and innovation are the foremost ingredients of success. In contrast with the cultural "melting pot" of the United States, Canada has embraced cultural diversity and encouraged immigrants to preserve their heritage. This unique history has left Canadians exceptionally well positioned in today's information-based world economy. For them, globalization is just as much business as usual as it is a challenge.

For those who have had the chance to visit Canada, it is no surprise that the country's quality of life is so highly rated in international comparisons. They understand why the United Nations ranks Canada number one in the world on its Human Development Index. And why the World Bank ranks it second in terms of its wealth of resources, investment and social programs. In addition to these achievements, the Geneva-based Corporate Resources Group ranks Vancouver and Toronto as the second and fifth best cities in the world in which to live.

Canadians are proud of their achievements in building such a successful and attractive nation. Nonetheless, they are certainly not inclined to rest on their laurels; instead, both collectively and individually, they are committed to building an even brighter future. They see partnerships with innovative and talented investors and entrepreneurs in other countries as a key strategy for accomplishing that goal.