

security of Canadian families by protecting and creating good jobs, attracting investment via a competitive tax system, encouraging innovation, and broadening and deepening our trading relationships.

This plan includes the pursuit of a broad and ambitious free trade agenda. Negotiations under the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization remain a priority for Canada, but we are not relying on that multilateral initiative alone. Canadian jobs depend on Canada remaining on an equal footing with its competitors, many of whom are negotiating free trade agreements to their advantage in markets of interest to Canada. The government is thus continuing to aggressively move forward on opening new markets and unlocking the opportunities that freer trade can offer.

Since 2006, the Harper government has concluded free trade agreements with eight countries, and we are continuing free trade negotiations with close to 50 others. This includes trade negotiations with the European Union, Canada's second-largest trading partner, and India, one of the world's fastest-growing economies. We are also

exploring the possibility of a closer economic partnering with Japan, and seeking to further deepen our trading relationship with the United States through key initiatives stemming from a Border Vision Declaration personally launched by Prime Minister Harper and President Obama in February.

Additionally, we are seeking better ties and greater access to markets via foreign investment promotion and protection agreements and bilateral air negotiation agreements. They help Canadian investors and exporters grow and expand their operations into new markets.

*Canada's State of Trade* demonstrates that Canada's international trade is on the upswing. The Harper government is committed to continuing to actively position Canada as a trade and investment leader and as a strategic business partner with access to the world's largest consumer markets. I look forward to working with all Canadians and investors from around the world to build on the progress we have made and to pave the way for even greater achievements in international commerce.



*The Honourable Ed Fast  
Minister of International Trade  
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