

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

I am pleased to present the 2003 edition of *Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities*. This year's report outlines the federal government's strategy for achieving improved access for goods, services and investment in key foreign markets. It also highlights significant market-opening results achieved by the government in 2002.

Canada is a trading nation whose prosperity is linked to our ability to facilitate commerce with the world. The Government of Canada remains committed to bringing down barriers in key markets through negotiations with trading partners, multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally. The overarching goal is to benefit Canadians and provide new opportunities for Canadian companies in world markets.

Canada's priority trade policy objectives for 2003 are to:

- successfully resolve the softwood lumber dispute with the United States;
- ensure the smooth flow of goods and services to our top market, the United States;
- make progress in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations; and
- conclude free trade agreement negotiations with Central America and Singapore.

While the cornerstone of our trade policy continues to be the multilateral trading system, our trading relationship with the United States remains paramount, and securing and improving access to this immense market is our number-one trade policy priority. Canadians are aware that this relationship—and our growing economic integration—are increasingly the subject of discussion and analysis. I believe that much can be done to build on existing achievements to further advance Canadian interests and to ensure our continued economic prosperity within a secure North America.



Canada's goals in this regard include:

- increasing our share of the U.S. import market;
- increasing the flows of two-way investment on which trade increasingly depends;
- advancing an agenda of smart regulation, which could include broadening and deepening regulatory cooperation between our countries;
- bringing trade remedy practice more in line with the growing integration of our shared North American economic space; and
- eliminating the border as an impediment to trade, investment and business development and moving the border-related processes from the border.

It is important to note that January 1, 2004, will mark the 10th anniversary of the coming into force of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA has been a tremendous success. It has fundamentally changed the North American economic space into one of the most efficient, integrated and competitive regions in the world. The increase in our trade and investment flows with the United States and Mexico during this past decade