

our inflation is now under 3 percent, despite the recent increase in energy costs. Finally, our interest rates are comparable to those in the United States.

**Canada is a flourishing market economy that supports free trade.** The NAFTA provides Canadian companies unrestricted access to the world's richest market, the United States. Free trade also gives entry to Mexico, one of the world's most promising markets. Canada and the United States have the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world. In 2000, two-way trade in goods and services averaged \$2.46 billion for every day of the year.

We are tireless advocates of further trade liberalization. Since Canada is already prospering under the NAFTA, we want to extend the reach of opportunities that we have as a free and fair trader. This can be accomplished regionally through the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, and multilaterally through the World Trade Organization (WTO).

I invite you to join the Canadian team.