

# Welcome to Canada

## Minister's Message to Business Leaders

*Canada offers excellent opportunities for business leaders who are looking for growth, innovation and manageable risks. Home to world-leading research and education, and offering lower costs, risks and business taxes, as well as ready access to North American markets, Canada is an investment partner of choice.*

When I speak to global business leaders, I never miss a chance to tell them what makes Canada a great location for business and investment. We offer one of the most attractive and low-risk business destinations in the world. Our rich diversity, spirit of innovation and excellent business conditions are key drivers of our economy. The advantages and opportunities that Canada offers are countless:

- Lowest taxes on new business investment in the G7
- Lowest debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7
- Fastest economic growth in the G7 for 2011, according to the International Monetary Fund
- World's soundest banking system, according to the World Economic Forum
- A "tariff-free zone" for manufacturers by 2015
- The highest proportion of post-secondary graduates in the OECD
- High quality of life
- A commitment to the rule of law and a strong justice system

Our economic growth has outperformed the rest of the G7 over the last decade. We have demonstrated the value of prudent regulation during the global economic downturn. Canada is in steady fiscal shape, with government debt levels well below those of almost every other industrialized nation. At a time when others are contemplating corporate tax hikes to pay for ballooning government debt, Canada continues to offer the lowest overall tax rate on new business investment in the G7.

Canada's strength and stability have positioned us to emerge from the global economic downturn stronger than ever. Our first-rate performance in the world economy is just one of the many reasons why Canada continues to eliminate barriers to trade and investment. The Government of Canada has already announced the elimination of over 1,500 tariffs on manufacturing inputs and machinery and equipment. This will make Canada the first country in the G20 to become a tariff-free zone for manufacturers.

Even more compelling is what I hear from global business leaders who have already invested in Canada. They tell me that Canada's highly skilled workforce and enviable quality of life make it a place to do business and succeed. Of course, the two go hand in hand. High quality of life attracts the capable and creative workers so essential to innovation and to gaining a competitive advantage in today's economy. Canada's safe, family-friendly cities; its beautiful natural environment and its world-leading research offer global companies a great place in which to invest, grow and succeed today, tomorrow and beyond.

This 2010 edition of *Invest in Canada* tells a compelling story about this country's many business credentials. Once you have perused its pages, I encourage you to contact us to discuss what Canada offers for your company. With over 900 trade and investment professionals located in more than 150 cities worldwide, we stand ready to help you find the right path to success in Canada.

**Canada will take care of your business.**



The Honourable Peter Van Loan  
Minister of International Trade

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