



March 12, 1999

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted that we are able to convene the 1999 Americas Heads of Mission meeting in Calgary, a city that symbolizes Canada's economic dynamism and export strengths. I believe that we have developed a varied and informative program around a set of issues that will underpin our activities over the coming years. Thank you for your input to the program, as well as to those who have agreed to lead on key agenda items.

Canada is deeply engaged in the full range of economic, social and security challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean and we are working closely with partners and institutions in the region to forge new hemispheric relations. As we host the series of upcoming high-level hemispheric meetings and, in a sense, bring home the agenda to Canadians, the energies and efforts of the department, and especially those in the field, will be central to the success of these events and of the overall hemispheric strategy.

You will see that we have outlined a number of specific and targeted objectives for this meeting. It is our best occasion to discuss our challenges and opportunities in the field and at home.

Finally, we have an important opportunity for contact with the Calgary community, which will help us understand their priorities and allow us to demonstrate the multi-faceted work that we carry out on behalf of domestic clients. I am certain that this meeting and the ensuing outreach programs will elicit, in Calgary and around the country, an even greater level of interest from Canadians in this dynamic region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Haynal'.

George Haynal  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Americas