

In 2008, China is hosting the Summer Olympic Games. Two years later, Vancouver-Whistler will host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. And later that same year, China is hosting the World Expo 2010.

With the eyes of the world on our two nations, we should work together for mutual benefit. There are clear opportunities for sharing best practices as host countries.

But the greatest opportunity lies in using the Games to promote Canada-China trade, investment and tourism, as well as cultural and educational exchanges.

Canada will, for example, use the 2010 Olympics to project Canada as a centre of excellence and innovation in the world.

This includes a big presence at the BC-Canada Pavilion in Beijing in 2008.

This brings me to the second element of our Global Commerce Strategy.

We're going to be telling the world a new story about Canada.

We will continue to build on natural resources successes—in energy, in mining, in forestry and in agriculture.

But we will show China and the world that Canada is moving up the value chain. We're becoming a leader in science and technology.

We are among world leaders in aerospace, information and communications technologies (ICT), wireless technology, and health sciences—areas like biotech, e-medicine and biomedical equipment. Innovative firms like RIM and Ballard are establishing themselves in China, and more will follow.

In fact, I'm joined on this trip by a number of leading "green technology" firms, including suppliers of biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells and other energy efficient technologies.

We will also remind the world that Canada is a great place to anchor North American commercial platforms, particularly where science, technology and innovation links are critical.

We will also encourage science and technology partnerships around the world.

Partners like China.

This morning I joined the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology, Mr. Xu Guanhua, to sign a Canada-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.