

## CONTEXT

- As you will realize, this will have been a period of transition for me.
- In the six months that I have been on deck as Deputy, I have had to spend considerable time updating myself on some issues and meeting people around town and the Department after an absence of four years abroad.
- I have also had to spend considerable time catching up with Lloyd Axworthy and supporting him in his agenda right till the end of October.
- But more importantly, I have devoted much of my time first preparing for the arrival of John Manley and then helping him develop his own agenda.
- I must say we are very fortunate that the Prime Minister has appointed him to this portfolio.
  - He comes to it with tremendous credentials at Industry Canada where he was at the center of the government's economic strategy.
  - He is a Minister who enjoys considerable trust from the Prime Minister, influence in Cabinet and credibility in public opinion.