

## INTRODUCTION OF THE MINISTER by Deputy Minister Gaëtan Lavertu

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who has been able to join us today for the presentation of Merit Awards to those who have made a significant contribution during Canada's tenure on the Security Council (1999-2000).

Recognizing the outstanding contribution of our employees is of utmost importance, and something that I am personally committed to.

Today's ceremony allows us to celebrate not only individual achievements but a remarkable team effort. This was the formula for Canada's success on the Security Council.