

sectors. We want to help to provide you with the tools to do the job. Indeed, I welcome your input as to whether you think the current tools are sufficient for the task.

Ladies and gentlemen, one of the reasons I am out on the west coast is because next week I shall be with the Prime Minister in Seattle to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation meeting. As I noted at the beginning of my speech, Canada must be an active participant in the Asia-Pacific region, not only on a bilateral basis but on a multilateral basis as well.

We intend to play a prominent role in APEC, which we see as the most important multilateral forum now being forged in the region. Overall, Canada wants to see APEC develop as an institution so that it can help build a stable framework for regional economic co-operation, liberalized trade and investment flows, and growth.

We see the work of APEC as promoting free trade to the greatest extent possible through multilateral liberalization, first and foremost through a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round. It is also a forum that allows us the opportunity to deliver our key messages on trade and economic policy issues and to develop a better understanding of the economic issues and outlook in the region and their implications for Canada.

Ladies and gentleman, Canada needs more companies like yours, working in the front lines to promote trade and sell Canadian goods overseas. As the new Minister for International Trade, I want to repeat my desire and readiness to work with you to that end. Again, I encourage you to use our personnel and services, and I look forward to meeting with many of you on an individual basis as the year progresses.

At auspicious occasions, the Chinese have a saying: "gong shee fa tsai." Loosely translated, I understand that this means "Congratulations, and make lots of money." I cannot think of a more appropriate way to conclude a speech to the members of the Canada China Trade Council. So, I wish you the best in your annual meeting and your endeavours in China. Thank you for inviting me and "gong shee fa tsai."