

Currently, more than 100 projects valued at \$1 billion or more each, in oil and gas, mining and primary metals have been announced for the 2012-2020 period, complementing a well-established base of large multinational corporations in the resources industries. This base has in turn helped build a large and growing pool of expertise and technologies in a number of advanced-manufacturing sectors that support the profitable development, processing and sustainable management of resources.

## Superior Banking System

- **Soundest banking system.** In 2011, for the fourth year in a row, the World Economic Forum ranked Canada's banking system as the soundest in the world. Banks in Canada are among the best capitalized in the world, exceeding Bank for International Settlements' requirements by significant margins. In fact, during the global financial crisis, not a single Canadian bank or insurer failed. Many international financial analysts share this view; Moody's Investor Service, for instance, ranks Canada's banking system number one in the world for financial strength.
- **Responsive banks.** Today, as Europe's sovereign debt crisis creates international concerns about financial stability, Canada's banks remain open for business and fully committed to, and capable of, providing credit. Credit conditions in Canada remain favourable, and both firms and banks benefit from capital costs well below historical averages. Canada's financial institutions provide competitive financing and risk-management solutions, along with specialized expertise, across a broad range of sectors.

## Export-oriented Nation

- **Stable and efficient border system.** The country shares a border and one of the world's largest and most stable commercial relationships with the United States. Dedicated "fast lanes" for pre-approved/low-risk travellers, expedited clearance processes for pre-authorized shipments and bilateral teams of customs officials at key border crossings are just a few of the mechanisms that help make Canada-US trade efficient and virtually seamless.
- **International hub.** Sailing times from Canada's Atlantic and Pacific deep-water ports are up to two days shorter than those from other North American ports. Since 2009, governments in Canada have invested more than \$30 billion in public infrastructure with the specific goal of stimulating economic growth by improving the movement of goods and people. The Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative is a prime example; infrastructure projects in the Corridor worth a total of more than \$3.5 billion are underway to better connect Canada to growing markets in Asia.