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### Northern dimension

Canada and the EU both have a geographic link with the Arctic. We also share a commitment to promoting sustainable development and working for human and environmental security among circumpolar countries and adjacent northern regions. Going far to meet this commitment are information exchanges among experts and organizations working in the North.

We place high priority on specific co-operation themes: issues of interest to Arctic Indigenous peoples; transfers of eco-efficient technology; Northern children and youth; education and student exchanges; public health; enhanced co-operation in research and higher education; establishing the University of the Arctic; and fully utilizing information technology and telecommunications in the Arctic.

Northern co-operation projects under way include exploration of the potential use of e-health technology and collaborative technological research in energy, transportation, telecommunications and other fields.

### Agriculture and food safety

The European Union is a leading exporter and importer of agri-food products. Access to this market is important to Canada, which exported almost \$1.2 billion worth of agri-food products to the EU in 2000. But it is a difficult market to penetrate. Food self-sufficiency is a central objective of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which for decades has provided generous assistance to farmers. With CAP reforms adopted in 2000, now the EU is changing its support to farmers and reducing its reliance on export subsidies. Further reforms are expected

as the EU prepares for enlargement and WTO negotiations, works to keep its agricultural budget from ballooning, and addresses major food safety crises such as BSE (mad cow disease) and foot-and-mouth disease.

Whenever possible, Canada continues to press for improved access to the EU market. Among recent successes: lowered import duties on medium-quality durum wheat, streamlined import procedures for seed potatoes, and access for Canadian ice wine. In the future, within the multilateral forum of the WTO, Canada and the EU will have to negotiate on agricultural issues—particularly top Canadian concerns such as eliminating export subsidies and substantially reducing financial support to farmers.

### Co-operation in science and technology

Co-operation in scientific research and technological development extends across a broad range of sectors—

thanks in part to an amendment to the 1995 Agreement for Scientific and Technological Co-operation, which has expanded opportunities for development exchanges. A priority for Canada was co-operation in biotechnology, now possible under the 1998 amendment. Canada promotes the use of science to help resolve some trade irritants, and we are encouraging regulatory co-operation in biotechnology.

Scientific and technological collaboration benefits Canada and the EU, as well as the researchers and organizations concerned. Co-operation is wide-ranging:

- The CERION Network links Canadian and European researchers working in nanotechnology, a cutting-edge discipline that seeks to manipulate matter at the atomic level in order to build microscopic devices. The Network enables the researchers to share resources, results and risks.

photo: CANAPRESS



On a cold, snowy morning at Hainle Estate Winery near Kelowna, B.C., Peter Glockner picks sweet frozen grapes for ice wine.