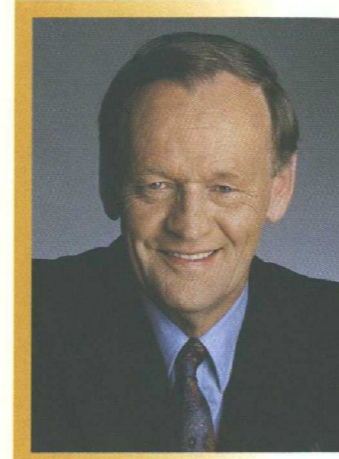


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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Entering the 21st century, Canada continues to build a powerful, modern economy through creativity, innovation and expertise. Canadians understand that success in the global market place depends on their ability to utilize these strengths — and they are meeting the challenge of global competition head-on.

Our products, services and technologies are internationally recognized as being of excellent quality and cost-competitive, due in no small part to a qualified and well-educated workforce. Canadian companies continue to set many industry standards and are staking their claim as world leaders in a variety of fields.

This commitment to excellence spans all of our industry sectors. Canada is the world's largest exporter of minerals, metals and forest products. We are the world's largest producer of hydroelectric power and, because of the challenges that our geography and climate present, we have pioneered many new transmission technologies. Other emerging technologies, like wind power and new generation fuel cells, are well suited to satisfy the world's increasing requirements for energy services.

Canadian companies are now at the cutting edge of information and communication technology developments. With a sophisticated and innovative technology base and a highly skilled workforce, several Canadian companies have helped install and upgrade information and communication systems around the world. These same technological and labour advantages have helped fuel our world-renowned transportation industry.

As well, Canada's immense oil, gas and water reserves have fostered the development of environmentally-friendly methods of producing safe, abundant and efficient energy. Recognizing the environment as one of Canada's greatest natural resources, several companies are leading the way in developing equipment and services for cleaning the air, water and earth. The prevention and clean-up of environmental spills, geomatics, remote sensing, waste management, laboratory testing and research are just a few of the areas in which Canadian companies hold substantial expertise.

Canada's health and educational programs and services are often cited as being among the world's best. Groundbreaking technology and software developments, in addition to a telecommunications network unsurpassed in its capacity to move and process information, have kept Canada at the forefront in both of these areas.

