

## Message from the Ministers

In December 2003, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade became two departments, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of International Trade. The two entities will continue to work closely on many issues such as sustainable development, which encompasses the environment, the economy and society. Both Departments have obvious opportunities to work with other nations and international groups, as well as with domestic partners, to achieve common sustainable development goals.

*Agenda 2006, A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Departments of Foreign Affairs and International Trade* was developed when the two Departments were one; however, with minor modifications, the framework it provides for the initiatives of both new Departments is still valid. It includes the perspective of staff as well as those of other levels of government, Aboriginal groups, academia, business, non-governmental organizations and members of the public.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with this strategy, which both sets out new initiatives and builds on notable achievements made within the context of *Agenda 2000* and *Agenda 2003*. We are confident that the implementation of *Agenda 2006* will bring benefits to Canada while contributing to sustainable development around the world.

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