These fundamental premises provide the foundation for the management of Canada's international trade relations. Nonetheless, the Government understands that it must build on this foundation to provide greater focus. Implementation requires identifying priorities and making hard choices, so that the resources the Government brings to bear are used with maximum effectiveness and so that the export community can plan ahead with greater certainty.

As Minister for International Trade, I am focusing my department's trade relations activity around three principal themes:

- taking full advantage of the market access now in place;

- improving further that access in a responsible, measured manner; and

- fostering a domestic economic environment conducive to export-led growth.

First, with the entry into force of the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, important new market access opportunities have opened for Canada:

- duty-free entry for Canadian newsprint and other paper products into Europe and Japan;

- freer trade in high-tech equipment and software, as well as transportation and telecommunications equipment;

- new potential to fill procurement contracts put out to competitive bidding by governments, including in major developing countries; and

- much clearer international rules limiting the ability of U.S. and European regulators to manipulate the rules on subsidies and countervailing duties to the detriment of Canadian exporters.

This progress and much more has been achieved.

I am determined to ensure that our exporters can take full advantage of these new opportunities. We are undertaking a complete review of all federal trade development programs to eliminate overlap and inefficiencies and to provide a sharper focus to our export support efforts.

I also plan to meet regularly with my provincial colleagues to explore how we can best combine our efforts to encourage exports and create jobs. In fact, I will be meeting with provincial and