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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS, INVESTORS AND BUSINESS LEADERS

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As Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2012 edition of *Invest in Canada*.

Canada remains one of the most welcoming places in the world for international business and foreign direct investment. In what remains a challenging global economic climate, Canada's economy has outperformed those of most other industrialized countries.

In fact, since July 2009, our economy has created 758,600 net new jobs, making Canada one of only two G-7 countries to have recouped all of the jobs lost during the global recession.

Canada's leadership on the world stage is being noticed by respected and influential international organizations and in leading publications. For the fourth straight year, the World Economic Forum has rated Canada's banking system as the world's soundest. *Forbes* magazine has ranked Canada as the best place in the world for businesses to grow and create jobs, due in part to our low-tax environment, which includes the lowest overall tax on new business investment in the G-7. Our net debt-to-GDP ratio remains the lowest in the G-7, by far. As well, both the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have forecast that Canada will be among the leaders of the world's major economies this year and next.

Despite ongoing global economic uncertainty, the Government of Canada is working to ensure that Canada continues to be a top destination for prosperity-generating foreign investment. As Prime Minister Stephen Harper has stated, Canada will seize and master its future with clarity and urgency and will be a model of confidence, growth and prosperity in the 21st century.

In our Economic Action Plan 2012, we announced key investments that focus on the drivers of job creation and economic growth—innovation, investment, education, skills and training. At the same time, we announced measures that will ensure the continued responsible management of public finances so that we return to a balanced budget over the medium term. To further position our country for long-term prosperity, our government is also undertaking the most ambitious trade expansion plan in Canadian history. This ambitious pro-trade plan will provide enormous long-term benefits to Canadian workers and businesses and to the growing number of investors who are making Canada their investment destination of choice.

The 2012 edition of *Invest in Canada* highlights Canada's many economic strengths and its rock-solid fundamentals.

In addition to reading more about Canada's world-leading advantages, I encourage you to visit [InvestinCanada.com](http://InvestinCanada.com) or contact our trade and investment professionals working around the world. They can help you expand and succeed here in Canada and abroad.

I look forward to working with you as we pave the way for further job creation, economic growth and long-term prosperity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Fast'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**The Honourable Ed Fast**  
Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway