



In his November 1996 report to the House of Commons entitled *Canada's Export Promotion Activities*, the Auditor General recommended that I provide Parliament with a review of the Government's progress in meeting its Team Canada international business development goals.

In responding to the Auditor General, the attached report, which I am tabling in the House of Commons on March 19, 1997, outlines the year's achievements of the International Business Development (IBD) program. This report represents the Government's first step in our plan to provide a detailed accounting of resources devoted to IBD activities and programs. A performance measurement system for IBD resources is currently being developed, and I will provide more detailed information following its implementation. The system will monitor client satisfaction with the Government's IBD services and will also measure the impact of these services.

Exports and investment are the main engine of our economy, and the Government is endeavouring to give Canadian firms a competitive edge in today's international marketplace. Working together in a Team Canada partnership, federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments and the private sector are co-ordinating their resources to better meet the needs of the exporting community.

The federal government and its Team Canada partners are forging ahead in their determination that IBD activities be tailored to the needs of Canadians and responsive to the demands of the global trading environment. This co-operative approach, designed to provide more efficient international business development services, will ensure that Canada remains one of the premier trading nations in the world and that we attain our common goal: jobs and economic growth for Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Arthur C. Eggleton', written in a cursive style.

Arthur C. Eggleton