

Message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics

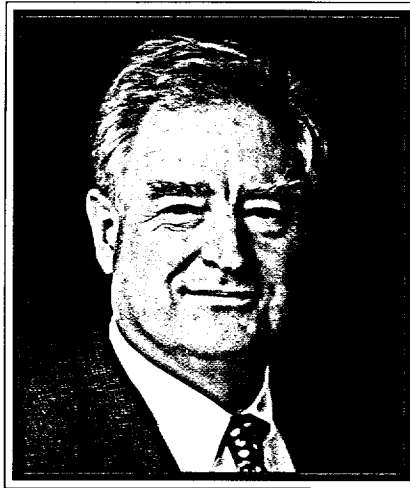
As Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, I am pleased to present the 2008 edition of *Canada's International Market Access Report*, which outlines market-access issues for 2008 and highlights the many successes achieved last year.

Canada is a trading nation. Our prosperity and quality of life hinge on success in the global marketplace. We need our businesses and investors reaching out to the markets of the world to capture new opportunities to generate the wealth upon which we all depend.

The Government of Canada is committed to helping Canadians compete effectively in the global marketplace. We are implementing a Global Commerce Strategy to help Canadian businesses and investors benefit from everything the global economy has to offer. This includes an aggressive agenda of free trade negotiations that will give Canadians the access they need to dynamic markets around the world.

This annual report is an important part of this pursuit. It contains useful market access information and trade policy highlights, and outlines important issues relating to investment, innovation, science and technology.

In 2006, we implemented a new online database (www.cimar-database.gc.ca) to help Canadian exporters better understand the trade barriers they face. We are extremely pleased with the positive feedback received from Canada's business community on this



database, and we look forward to working with them in the year ahead to ensure that they have the tools and information they need to succeed and thrive in the global marketplace.

I encourage you to make this report—and the online database—an active part of your business planning for the next year and beyond.

Working together, we can continue building on Canada's proud legacy as a trading nation, and ensure that our nation remains successful and prosperous into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Emerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

The Honourable David L. Emerson,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway
and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics