

provide a useful tool to many Canadian companies seeking to develop specific market sectors in China.

Finally, due to the rapid growth in demand for the services of Canadian trade commissioners in China by the Canadian business community, I have decided to increase the level of our staff at the Canadian Consulate General in Shanghai. As well, we will establish a commercial office in Guangzhou.

My trip here this week is just the beginning of an intensive year in the Canada-China relationship. Next month our governor general and our minister of agriculture will be here. Our foreign minister will come in July. And our prime minister will come to crown the year on a major mission in November, at the time of the Canada-China Business Council's annual meeting. One of China's vice-premiers, Zou Jiahua, will be in Canada next month, and we expect to have received 10 or more Chinese ministers by the end of the year. It will be a great year in which we will achieve much, restoring the Canada-China relationship to its proper high-priority place in our foreign and trade policies.

I would like to raise my glass and propose a toast to President Jiang Zemin, the people of China and Canada, and the health and prosperity of all my friends here today.