

PRODUCTIVITY IN MANUFACTURING HAS INCREASED MORE RAPIDLY THAN IN THE REST OF THE ECONOMY, TO THE EXTENT THAT, OVER THE PAST DECADE, MANUFACTURING HAS ACCOUNTED FOR FULLY ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH. THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN CANADIAN PER CAPITA REAL INCOME. IT IS NOTEWORTHY, I THINK, THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF MANUFACTURING IN CANADA SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II HAS BEEN RELATIVELY STEADY IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL PRODUCTION, DESPITE CHANGES IN CANADIAN AND FOREIGN TARIFFS, FLUCTUATIONS IN EXCHANGE RATES AND OTHER FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE COMPETITIVENESS OF CANADIAN PRODUCTION. THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, WHICH HAS BEEN OF CONTINUING IMPORTANCE TO ALL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY (ALTHOUGH IN VARYING DEGREES), IS CENTRAL TO MANY OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS OF OUR DIFFERENT REGIONS. IN ADDITION, DEMAND FROM THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF STRENGTH FOR OUR RESOURCE INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY HAS SUSTAINED THE GROWTH OF OUR SERVICE SECTOR.

AS FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE, I SHARE THE CONVICTION THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND THIS SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY ON AN INCREASINGLY VIABLE AND INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE BASIS. IT IS VERY MUCH WITH THIS IN MIND THAT THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES