

I'D LIKE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY. IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO ACCOMPANY A GROUP OF CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS SEEKING BUSINESS IN OUR BEST MARKET, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN AN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN WHICH WE ARE ACKNOWLEDGED AS WORLD LEADERS.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT MY FIRST OFFICIAL TRIP OUTSIDE CANADA AS MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS TO LAUNCH EXPORT TRADE MONTH. BECAUSE I'M A MEMBER OF A NEW GOVERNMENT, I WON'T BE MAKING ANY MAJOR POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS. THESE ARE EARLY DAYS, AND I PLAN TO APPROACH THE MANY COMPLEX TRADE ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY IN AN ORDERLY AND PRUDENT FASHION. I FREELY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I'M STILL GETTING A HANDLE ON THIS AREA WHICH IS OF SO MUCH CONCERN FOR EVERY CANADIAN. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE SEEKING YOUR IDEAS. WE WILL LISTEN, AND THEN WE WILL ACT. WE INTEND TO CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY CAN PUT CANADIANS BACK TO WORK.