



**EXPANDED ACCESS TO
1.3 BILLION PEOPLE**

On December 11, 2001, China became the 143rd member of the World Trade Organization (WTO)—an important step in a continuing process of economic liberalization.

China is the world's sixth-largest economy, with a gross domestic product of \$1.6 trillion in 2000 and a growth rate of 7% in the third quarter of 2001. It is also the world's sixth-largest global trader of merchandise, with two-way trade totalling just over \$700 billion in 2000.

Now that China is a WTO member, Canadian exporters of goods, services and technology will have improved access to this vital and growing market of 1.3 billion people. Just as important, our trading relationship will be governed by the internationally accepted principles and practices of the WTO.

As it transforms itself, China will continue to look beyond its borders for expertise and products to advance its ambitious economic and social reforms. For Canadian exporters, that spells opportunities.

In addition, as a WTO member China will participate in the WTO negotiations launched in November 2001 in Doha, Qatar. The agenda includes:

- reductions of barriers to trade in agricultural and non-agricultural products, including negotiations on reducing all agricultural export subsidies with a view to phasing them out;
- negotiations on anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing duties;
- negotiations on the relationship between the WTO and international environmental agreements;
- work programs leading to negotiations on investment, competition, trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement; and
- deepened negotiations on liberalizing trade in services.

**NEW FRAMEWORK FOR
TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

China joined the WTO in December 2001 but Hong Kong was a founding member of the WTO's predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Canada's multilateral trade relationship in the region is deep and varied.