

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE



I am pleased to report that Canada's outstanding performance in the area of international trade continued throughout 2000. Our exports of goods and services rose to a record high of \$473.9 billion in 2000, and we recorded a surplus of \$18.9 billion on our current account balance. Canada continues to rank among the world's leading trading economies. With exports of goods and services now representing 45.6 percent of gross domestic product and trade accounting for one in every three jobs, it is clear that Canada's trade success is directly and positively related to our overall economic growth and prosperity.

It is also clear that improving and securing access to key markets is an important factor in ensuring continued trade expansion. That is why the Government of Canada is so committed to bringing down barriers in key markets and securing predictable access to the world for Canadian traders and investors. Enhanced market access is the path to continued prosperity for Canadians.

With this thought in mind, I am very pleased to present *"Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities – 2001"*. This annual report, prepared by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, outlines the federal government's strategy for achieving improved access for goods, services and investment in key foreign markets. The report also highlights significant market-opening results achieved by the Government in 2000 to benefit Canadians and provide new opportunities for Canadian companies in world markets.

As a medium-sized, trade-dependent economy, Canada's current and future economic success depends on open world markets, a stable trading environment, and a means to settle trade disputes based on rules rather than on political or economic might. In 2001, Canada will pursue its objectives through multilateral and regional forums, bilaterally with key trading partners, and through the negotiation of new free trade agreements.