

effort to make this point to the government in Beijing. In this regard, we are encouraged by recent co-operation between Great Britain and China - including on the Court of Final Appeal. This is evidence that both sides can devise creative measures to ease the transition while respecting the Joint Declaration and the principles of both countries.

We want Hong Kong to remain a vibrant player in the world and a principal centre of the new Asia-Pacific. Investors and traders need this confidence. And China needs this confidence as much as the investors and traders if they too are to succeed in the global economy.

We want Hong Kong to preserve the basic human rights and freedoms of its citizens, supported by the continuation of the kind of rule of law that has so benefited the growth of the territory in the past. Once again, the agreement to establish a Court of Final Appeal early in the summer was a good step in the right direction. It will help preserve the continuity of Hong Kong's Common Law. The recent move to facilitate transition in the civil service is also helpful.

Above all, and of special importance to the members of the Association, we want Canadians of Hong Kong to be able to continue to travel, to work and to live in Hong Kong as freely as they currently do. This is something on which we continue to seek clarification from the Chinese authorities. While their assurances of non-interference and facilitation are welcome, we continue to press for detail on specific arrangements to secure their status, that of their families and their business interests.

These matters continue to preoccupy us but, overall, I am a "cautious optimist." I believe we can look forward to a reasonably smooth transition but, as they say, the devil may be in the details and, even if the details are worked out, what really counts is how international business reacts.

Much of the responsibility for a successful transition rests on the Chinese leadership. China has the potential to become a force in world production, trade and finance. Hong Kong is a window on the global economy and the Chinese government must properly utilize Hong Kong for two significant reasons: first, in order to sustain the momentum of Chinese development and second, to achieve its potential for regional and global leadership.

These are some of the challenges we and other members of the international community face in regard to Hong Kong's future. Nevertheless, I am confident that Hong Kong will continue to prosper and the relationship between the people of Canada and the people of Hong Kong will continue to grow by leaps and bounds. Indeed, to me, the Canadian success in Hong Kong is just one more advantage of being part of "Team Canada."