

"Government has a role to play in promoting an economic climate which helps business grow and create jobs," said Dr. Gerrard. "Partnerships, whether in trade, technology or creating a better business climate, are increasingly important to Canada's success in the global economy."

The MOU creates a framework for developing joint strategies and action plans to help Manitoba businesses take advantage of opportunities in the international marketplace. The MOU acknowledges Manitoba's regional strengths and priorities as well as the benefits to be achieved through a collaborative approach by Canadian businesses in particular markets.

This MOU represents an important milestone in the bilateral Action Plan between the federal and Manitoba governments aimed at improving the efficiency of the federation. First Ministers launched this initiative at their meeting in December 1993. The formal Action Plan was signed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Premier Gary Filmon in the summer of 1994.

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A copy of the MOU is attached.

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