

Message from the Minister of International Trade



As Canada's Minister of International Trade, I am pleased to present the 2006 edition of *Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities*, which outlines Canada's market access objectives for 2006 and highlights the many successes achieved last year.

With an estimated one in five Canadian jobs linked to international trade, our nation's prosperity clearly depends on success in the global marketplace. This success is measured far beyond the traditional import and export of goods and services. It also encompasses investment, commercial collaborations, technology partnerships and all the other elements of global value chains, including multinational and regional networks of finance, production and distribution. And by making Canada a magnet for investment—by supporting Canadian investment in key markets—we will develop the supply chains necessary to ensure the free flow of trade.

We are a trading nation, and keeping Canada competitive means adapting to the new realities of the global marketplace. This means competitive domestic policies to stimulate investment and innovation, and an international framework that provides our businesses with the tools, rules, networks and corridors necessary for them to succeed on the world stage. It means actively engaging emerging global markets, by establishing new relationships and trade agreements. And it means re-energizing our commercial relationship with the United States.

With almost \$2 billion in goods and services flowing between our nations every day, domestic prosperity continues to hinge on a relationship that will continue to be of paramount importance in the years to come. In 2006, Canada's new government will take steps to deepen our access to the U.S. market, and work with our American partners to make North America—as a whole—more competitive.

With that strong foundation in place, we must continue to reach out to the markets of the world, ensuring that our businesses and investors are aware of global opportunities and are well equipped to take advantage of them. We will continue to pursue foreign investment promotion and protection agreements with China and India. We are working toward a joint economic framework with Japan and free trade with Korea. And we remain committed to seeking an ambitious outcome for the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

This year's edition of *Opening Doors to the World* introduces a new tool to help Canadian businesses succeed in the global marketplace: a supplementary online database of commercial barriers facing Canadian companies abroad, which is available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's trade negotiations and agreements website at <http://www.international.gc.ca/tna-nac/>. I encourage you to consult this website for the most up-to-date information on how the Government of Canada is helping Canadian businesses and investors to capture global opportunities and build on the wealth and prosperity that is so fundamental to our national well-being.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "D. L. Emerson".

The Honourable David L. Emerson, P.C., M.P.