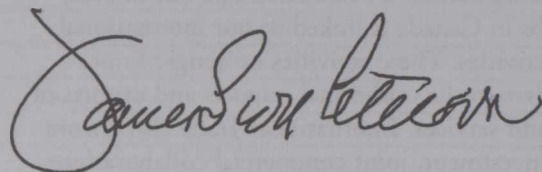

sustained growth, attracting the attention and investment of multinational enterprises. China, India and Brazil are prime examples, exercising influence in international trade negotiations proportionate to their new strength.

These developments have significantly altered the dynamics of international commerce, and have important implications for the competitiveness of companies and the prosperity of nations. Canada's competitiveness within even our most traditional markets will be increasingly influenced by the depth and breadth of our engagement with these countries. Engagement with these markets is not merely a question of expanding our exports; it is about access to competitively priced inputs. It is also about investment flows, intellectual property development and protection, science and technology linkages, and access to distribution networks—all critical elements of being competitive in a global business environment. We must succeed in engaging with these partners if we are to ensure that we remain integral to the business equation.

The year 2005 will also be a busy one on other trade policy fronts. We will engage with emerging market countries to establish Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements with China and India, we will conduct exploratory talks with Korea regarding possible free trade negotiations, and we remain committed to seeking an ambitious outcome for the Doha Development Agenda at the World Trade Organization. Canadian negotiators will also be involved in several bilateral negotiations to open markets for Canadian business and to complement broader, multilateral efforts. For example, we will continue to pursue a comprehensive Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement with the European Union. This innovative pact is intended to move beyond traditional market-access issues in the World Trade Organization. Another example is the Canada–Japan Economic Framework on which we will accelerate our efforts to help advance our economic relations with this important trading partner beyond the current base.

The Government of Canada will continue to consult regularly with all stakeholders: the provinces and territories, the business sector, non-governmental organizations, municipalities and the Canadian public. This dialogue is an invaluable tool used by the government to communicate and to inform its forward agenda on a wide range of issues.

I would encourage you to consult the department's trade negotiations and agreements Web site at www.international.gc.ca/tna-nac/ for the most up-to-date information on Canada's trade policy agenda.



The Honourable James Scott Peterson, P.C., M.P.