



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

The Voice of Canadian Business™
Le porte-parole des entreprises canadiennesTM

December 11, 2008

*Office of the President and
Chief Executive Officer*

*Cabinet du président
et chef de la direction*

Honourable Stockwell Day, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Trade
Minister's Office
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Honourable Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Minister's Office
930 Carling Avenue, Floor 9
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Dear Ministers:

In the coming days, WTO members may be called upon through a Ministerial meeting to agree to the modalities for the conclusion of the Doha Round trade negotiations. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the 175,000 organizations we represent, strongly supports the successful conclusion of the Doha Round and urges Canada to sign on to an ambitious agreement.

The Canadian Chamber is a longstanding and vocal advocate of the benefits derived from trade and investment liberalization. As a trading nation, Canada's prosperity and competitiveness depends on open and secure access to international markets. This is especially true during the current times of economic uncertainty.

A balanced and ambitious Doha agreement, containing commitments and increased market access in all three pillars of the negotiations – agriculture, non-agriculture market access, and services – offers tremendous potential for Canadian companies. Further, an ambitious deal at the Doha Round falls in line with the G-20 declaration calling all countries to "*strive to reach agreement this year on modalities that leads to a successful conclusion to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome*".

A successful conclusion at the Doha Round will benefit Canadian companies, including farmers, manufacturers, and service providers, in addition to Canadian consumers. It is important that all countries, including Canada, do what is necessary to achieve a comprehensive and balanced agreement. We look forward to seeing Canada among the leading countries working to achieve this important agreement.

Sincerely,

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