

Canadian Intervention
Investing in Industrial Development
10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursday May 4, 2006
Conference Room 4

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Canada has significant experience in investing to meet current challenges and to pursue opportunities to help foster industrial development. In particular, Canada places tremendous importance on creating a business climate that does not hinder industrial development. We strive to ensure that our industrial policies along with our regulatory frameworks serve both industry and the public interest.

One of our main goals is to enable industry to adopt new technologies that address sustainability challenges. Several not-for-profit organizations exist with assistance from the Government of Canada. There are two examples that we would like to highlight as they have been quite successful.

The Canadian Environmental Technology Advancement Corporation aims to assist small and medium sized enterprises engaged in the development and commercialization of new environmental technologies. It does this by linking technology producers, industry experts, and investment sources to ensure that these firms are successful.

Sustainable Development Technology Canada is a not-for-profit foundation that finances and supports the development and demonstration of clean technologies that provide solutions to environmental issues such as air quality and climate change. It achieves this by scaling up technologies from the laboratory setting and tests them in real world situations.

Coupled with direct research and commercialization programmes, Canada has found technology roadmapping to make an important contribution. Canada facilitates this industry-led planning process that assists companies in identifying product or service needs, then mapping them onto technology alternatives, and to develop plans to ensure that the required technologies are available when needed.

Another area of Canada's efforts to create an enabling environment for sustainable industrial development is in the area of voluntary agreements. We have been successful in negotiating voluntary agreements with the automotive industry in areas such as fuel efficiency, emissions, pollution prevention, and safety. Improvements in these areas will reduce transportation energy demand, GHG emissions and other particulates, and enhance public safety. However, Canada will not be relying solely on voluntary agreements. We have begun reforming our domestic regulatory regime to enhance competitiveness and safeguard the investment climate while continuing to protect Canadians and the environment.

Canada also offers programs to encourage the adoption of corporate social responsibility and other similar concepts. We have assisted industry in developing guidelines and indicators that address ethics, transparency, sustainability, and accountability. As a result, many industry groups have now adopted corporate social responsibility programs.

Canada's goal is to create an environment where the business community can easily incorporate new technologies into its industrial activities, subscribe to voluntary agreements, and adopt corporate social responsibility programs. We believe that this approach will continue to improve productivity in a sustainable manner.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,