

April 1, 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen J. Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
Langevin Block 80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A3

Dear Prime Minister,

Canada is consistently ranked as one of the best countries in the world in which to live. Canadians enjoy the second-highest per capita GDP in the G-7, and our country has earned an enviable record on job creation, economic growth and fiscal responsibility. In all of these areas, Canada's trade with the world – and the economic activity it generates – is a critical driver of success.

One in three jobs in Canada depends on exports, either directly or indirectly. Simply put, the prosperity of all Canadians depends upon the ability of businesses large and small, in communities across our country, to trade freely with customers around the world.

Your ambitious trade agenda is creating jobs and opportunities for Canadians in every region of the country. The next step must be to open new markets in the fast-growing Asia Pacific region.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations represent an historic opportunity to provide Canadian entrepreneurs and exporters of goods and services with access to almost 800 million new customers. Building on your government's recent announcement of a comprehensive economic partnership with the European Union, a successful outcome to the TPP negotiations would position Canada as the only country in the world with privileged access to key markets across North America, Europe and Asia.

On behalf of our member companies, their employees across Canada and the families they support, we urge your government to take a leadership role in completing this historic effort to create a framework and a system of rules that will govern trans-Pacific trade for decades to come. As you yourself have noted, the TPP is the biggest game on the planet in terms of trade negotiations. New international business opportunities are at stake for Canadian exporters, as is the integrity of the North American supply chains upon which much of our economy is based.

Prime Minister, thank you for the strength of your commitment to open markets and these vital negotiations. You can be assured of our continuing strong support for Canada's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Sincerely,



The Honourable John Manley
President and
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Council
of Chief Executives



The Honourable Perrin Beatty
President and
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Jayson Myers
President and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

c.c. The Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

The Honourable Edward Fast, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Trade
Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

The Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
Finance Canada

Mr. Raymond Novak
Chief of Staff to The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister