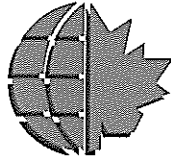

CANADIAN COUNCIL
OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES*



CONSEIL CANADIEN
DES CHEFS D'ENTREPRISE

Thomas d'Aquino
Chief Executive and President
Chef de la direction et président

October 15, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen J. Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

My colleagues at the *Canadian Council of Chief Executives* (CCCE) join me in extending our congratulations and best wishes to you and to the members of the Conservative Party of Canada on your victory in this week's national general election.

As you commence your second term as Prime Minister, Canadians face staggering challenges in large part due to the global financial crisis and the recessionary forces that are sweeping across the globe. As you rightly pointed out during the campaign, there is no cause for panic because Canada enjoys a position of relative strength amidst this global turmoil, but neither can we as an open economy escape the consequences of what is happening around the world.

As Canada's senior business leaders, the members of the CCCE manage enterprises that are responsible for the vast majority of our country's exports, investment, research and development and training. I want to assure you that we are doing everything within our power to help stabilize the situation, boost consumer confidence, sustain high levels of business activity and create new and better jobs to replace those being lost.

The financial crisis reinforces the importance of continuing to strengthen Canadian competitiveness within the global economy. In your first term, you developed an essential framework for this goal through your Government's *Advantage Canada* strategy. You also commissioned the *Competition Policy Review Panel*, which proposed a bold agenda for building

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on this foundation in its final report in June 2008, as well as the *Advisory Panel on Canada's System of International Taxation*, which undoubtedly will offer more specific recommendations on the tax front when it reports in December.

At the beginning of this decade, our Council defined our core goal as “*making Canada the best country in the world in which to live, to work, to invest and to grow.*” We therefore look forward to working closely with you and your Government as you build on the achievements of your first term in executing a bold, innovative agenda aimed at Canadian excellence.

Moving successfully through the current global crisis and emerging a winner among nations will require vision, good ideas, hard work and tenacity. It also will require efforts that cut across levels of government and party lines.

It is our deepest hope that when Parliament resumes, all parties will set aside partisanship and rancour in favour of a united effort to help the men, women and children of this great country cope with the unavoidable consequences of a slowing global economy. We also hope to see greater cooperation among provincial governments to strengthen Canada as a whole in these times of daunting uncertainty, and we will do whatever we can to help move Canada's Premiers and other leaders across the country toward consensus and coherent action on critical issues.

In the meantime, we extend to you, to the members of your Government and to all those in elected office who serve Canada our best wishes. May good judgment and good will prevail!

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Aguirre