

Minister
of Agriculture and
Agri-Food
and Minister for the
Canadian Wheat Board



Ministre
de l'Agriculture et de
l'Agroalimentaire
et ministre de la
Commission canadienne du blé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

On behalf of the Government of Canada, welcome to the 2008 Ethnic & Specialty Food Expo in Toronto.

Canada's farmers and food processors are proud to put high-quality food on the tables of families here at home and around the world. This Government is continuously working to help Canadian producers access new and exciting markets for their world-class products. New and diverse markets are opening up around the globe and Canadian farmers are ready to deliver.

New markets require new networks and new strategies. Over the past three years, the Expo has emerged as an indispensable marketing tool, helping food and beverage processors, distributors, importers and wholesalers showcase their high-quality and innovative ethnic, specialty and organic food products.

Prime Minister Harper promised to re-establish Canada's place on the world stage and that work is paying off for the agriculture and food sector. Over the past year, I have traveled to Russia, Japan, Cuba, Mexico, Geneva, Rome and the United States to promote Canadian products on behalf of Canadian farmers and processors.

Thank you for your excellent work in promoting our farmers and processors and all the best for another successful show.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Ritz".

Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.

Canada