

**Notes for a Speech by**

**The Honourable Gary Lunn, P.C., M.P.**

***Minister of Natural Resources***

**on**

**Announcement of Mapping Agreement with Chile**

**Santiago, Chile**

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***Check against delivery***

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Gracias. Thank you very much. (Text in Spanish), Minister Schmidt, distinguished guests, members of the military here. It's a great pleasure to be here. I'd also like to acknowledge your Ambassador to Chile in Canada who we know very well. Mr. Lot, you do a great job representing Chile in Ottawa and obviously Ambassador Kalisch who represents Canada here in Chile.

This is the first time that I have visited this beautiful country. In only a few hours I've come to value the generosity of Chile's people.

I'm delighted to join you in signing an agreement between Canada and the Republic of Chile. Its purpose is to develop geomatics, knowledge and geospatial information systems between our two countries. It is a privilege to sign this agreement on behalf of the Government of Canada together with Minister Schmidt who chairs the Chilean ministry responsible for territorial information management. Although this agreement focuses on the development of geomatics knowledge, there is a larger context and importance to the partnership that we will begin today.

There may be many miles between our two countries. Indeed, we inhabit opposite ends of the western hemisphere. Our histories are entirely different but we do share much in common. We both have many different geographical and geological features with a wide range of climates. At least 80 percent of Chileans and Canadians live in cities. Most Canadians inhabit a narrow ribbon of land next to the U.S. border while Chileans live along a narrow ribbon next to the Pacific Oceans.

Both of our countries have looked to natural resources as the mainstay of our economic growth. Under Chile's Energy Security Policy and Canada's Clean Air Regulatory Agenda, both countries are developing renewable energy sources including wind, solar, hydroelectric, biomass and geothermal.

Ten years ago, we made a decision to take further advantage of our similarities. Much of the success of our trade and investment relationship has occurred since 1997, when the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement came into force. This agreement has been a milestone for both our countries. It was the first accord between Chile and a member of the G8. It was Canada's first free trade agreement with a South American country. The reason for this is that our countries share common ideals. We value open trade, globally integrated economies and collaboration in science and technology. We both want to promote social justice, raise living standards and advance environmental health around the world.

Since our free trade agreement was launched, two-way trade has more than tripled, reaching over \$2.3 billion in 2006 alone. Canada is Chile's third largest source of foreign investment, reaching 10.4 billion according to your estimates. We are the largest source of investment in your mining sector. Canadian investors are strongly attracted to your country as a gateway to Latin American markets. Our prime minister, Stephen Harper, was here only 10 days ago to strengthen ties between us. He has made it clear that Canada's interests reach beyond North America. We see ourselves as part of a larger family, a family of states committed to common goals like democracy, security and prosperity.

Canada has stepped up trade negotiations in many places around the world but this increased engagement involves more than trade. It means forging partnerships in matters of security and development, especially throughout the western hemisphere. As the prime minister pointed out, we want our role in the hemisphere to reflect Canada's uniqueness while also emphasizing the economic and political fundamentals necessary for progress. In other words, Canada wants a role that reflects our commitment to open markets and free trade but also to democratic values and accountable institutions as well as to our national identity and our traditions of order and community values.

But for Canada to play this role we need partners. Thus Canada is looking to be more deeply engaged in the Americas. This brings me to the agreement we are signing here today. We in Canada want to share lessons we've learned in developing and using advanced geospatial information systems. We want to learn from other countries that are developing their own land and territorial information systems. It is a priority for Natural Resources Canada to provide public access to high quality maps, satellite images and related data – geodata technologies. Canada's geospatial data infrastructure is especially helpful in the development, management and protection of our natural resources.

We have used our geospatial data information and climate change in tracking agriculture, mining and forest developments, in transportation and road network development and in land use planning and territorial zoning. The agreement we sign today will facilitate collaboration in developing these systems further in Chile and Canada. I'm very excited about this agreement and what it promises for the future. I look forward to stronger collaboration between our two countries not only in geomatics knowledge but in other forms as a partnership as well.

Thank you very much.