



An Taoiseach, Simon Harris TD
Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings,
Merrion Street Upper, Dublin 2,

25 November 2024

Dear Taoiseach,

The Ireland Canada Business Association is the voice of Canadian Businesses in Ireland who collectively employ over 15,000 people. We are writing to ask you to prioritise the ratification of The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) when elected into office. CETA was passed by the EU Parliament in 2017. The first year after the provisional implementation of CETA, there was more than 30% rise in the value of goods traded between Ireland and Canada. Today, 17 member states have ratified CETA. The ICBA asks your party when elected to government to do likewise.

Key features of CETA include:

- Removal of 99% of customer duties.
- Ending restrictions on open access to public procurement contracts.
- Offering predictable conditions for investors.

The historically strong cultural links between Ireland and Canada are now matched by the strength of our economic relationship. Canadian companies have a major economic influence in this country with significant regional operations including SOTI in Galway, Greenfield Global in Laois, Optel Group in Limerick and eSentire in Cork. As IDA Clients, these companies make a substantial impact on the wider community and the IDA have stated that “As many as eight jobs are confirmed in the wider economy for every ten created by IDA Client companies “.

There are over 75 Canadian companies operating in Ireland as it remains particularly attractive to high growth Canadian tech companies that need to scale. More and more Canadian companies in scaling mode have chosen Ireland to locate their European HQ.

The ratification of CETA has become more important with the imminent US trade protectionist policy. Once ratified we expect the open and stable economic relationship that Ireland has with Canada to flourish. We ask you with the ratification of CETA to give the Ireland Canada relationship the bedrock it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Giblin *Kate Hickey*

Dr Deirdre Giblin & Kate Hickey
Chairperson & Executive Director
Ireland Canada Business Association