

# 2024 ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING – MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Good day.

I'm Vivian Abdelmessih, Chair of EDC's Board of Directors.

Before I welcome you to our Annual Public Meeting, I would like to honour the lands and people of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation we are on today.

In 2023 EDC served more than **27,000 customers** with our financial and knowledge solutions.

We facilitated more than **\$131 billion** in exports, foreign investment and trade development activities, more than **\$27 billion** of which was in emerging markets.

Trade is fundamental to Canada's economic prosperity.

Together, imports and exports represent 68 per cent of the country's GDP with exports specifically accounting for 34 per cent.

Still, only a small fraction of Canadian businesses are exporting imagine the transformative effect on our economy if more companies seized international opportunities.

Throughout 2023, EDC made significant strides toward our goal of growing Canada's exports by 60 per cent by 2030.

A third of the way through this ambitious strategy our focus remains on the same key elements.

**Growing Canadian exports**, with a particular focus on high-growth markets and sectors.

**Tailoring our support** for the micro, small, medium and large segments so they can access the right supports at the right times.

**Innovating** digitally and culturally, to allow us to move at the speed of business.

**Embedding ESG into everything we do** to make Canada and the world more sustainable and inclusive through trade.

Our 2023 Integrated Annual Report details each of these key elements.

And the report goes beyond the data.

It tells the stories of Canadian companies that are growing sustainably and the positive impact they are making at home and abroad.

Because success is not just in the numbers.

It's also about the impact we make on Canadian businesses and communities.

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It's about helping Canada's exporters seize opportunities in global markets and navigate challenges with confidence.

This hard work, the same EDC has done for the past 80 years, is vital to Canada's economy.

But none of this would be possible without our dedicated team of more than 2,000 employees.

Their commitment to our customers' success is unparalleled.

I am honoured to serve as EDC's Chair, working in lockstep with our Board and management team whose leadership ensures EDC's continued relevance and influence.

EDC is a significant part of Canada's trade ecosystem but just one part.

I extend my gratitude to our private and public sector partners who play key roles in supporting Canada's trade agenda.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains steadfast.

We will continue to innovate, to adapt, and to champion Canadian exporters on the world stage.

I invite you to view the video messages and reflections from our Executive Vice President and CFO Scott Moore, and EDC President and CEO Mairead Lavery.

Thank you.