

U.S. could be finalized within the next year, given strong support on both sides of the border.

Finally, a Canada-U.S. Trade Treaty can give us the market that Canadian business needs to specialize and achieve economies of scale. Successful Canadian businesses will be able to move through the U.S. market to compete in other markets.

Of course, it only makes sense to seek enhanced economic relationships with our trading partners. Given the growing interdependence of the international economy, it only makes sense to develop further our most significant trading relationships. And given the growing significance of the Pacific Rim, it only makes sense to focus our attention on enhancing our economic relationships with our neighbours in that area.

I have spoken earlier this afternoon about building bridges, not barriers, to economic opportunity. I cannot think of two better opportunities.

Thank you.