

North America's common economic interest can transcend narrow domestic concerns.

Another area where the NAFTA — or a NAFTA-plus — can move forward is investment. Increasingly, servicing a foreign market means achieving a presence in that market — whether through joint ventures, ~~strategic partnership or direct capital investment~~. Already we have seen a spectacular growth in cross-border investment within North America itself, and within the Western Hemisphere as a whole. In a world where trade is not just about what you make, but about how and where you make it, an advanced investment code should be one of the central rationales of a NAFTA.

Here, as elsewhere, Canada can take a leading role, even in the face of apparent U.S. uncertainty. We have a unique opportunity to push the hemispheric agenda forward, a unique opportunity to help chart the trade policy map of the next several years even decades. After all, the defining characteristic of Canada's foreign policy has been the commitment to international rule making and consensus building.

Canada's security and prosperity have always been inextricably linked to the health of international systems. Our enduring strategy for working toward shared goals and interests has consistently been to build a shared architecture of international rights and obligations. When the countries of the Western Hemisphere gather at the Summit of the Americas in Miami this December, Canada at least will have a clear message to deliver.