

It is a pleasure to be once again in Edmonton and certainly a pleasure to be here with you today.

I am particularly glad to be addressing a group that consists of so many business people, because I know that you will equate with what I have to say.

When you take over a business or start one, your prime concern is to promote that business into a success: to achieve the goals that you set for yourself.

It occasionally happens that a business becomes so successful its owner is suddenly too busy to spend any more time on promotion. At that point, things can start to fall off.

If you're in business, it shows up on the books. If you happen to be in politics, it shows up in the opinion polls.

When this government was elected in 1984, we had spent a lot of time and effort telling the people of Canada of our goals and ambitions for this country.

Obviously, Canadians liked what they were hearing.

And ... they expected us to deliver.

But we've been too busy running the country to run for the next election.

The NDP is in the happy position where they can promise anything -- secure in the knowledge that they'll never have to deliver.

As for the Liberals ... there in the middle ... I am reminded of the words of American poet Robert Frost, who defined a Liberal as a "Man too broadminded to take his own side in a quarrel".

When Prime Minister Mulroney and this government were elected, we had a national agenda for action.

Let me remind you of the four points of that agenda:

- National Reconciliation
- Economic Renewal
- Social Justice
- Improved International Performance