

know the techniques on which our organizations and entrepreneurs have founded their success. They not only want to celebrate that success, they want those techniques widely disseminated so every Canadian can share in that success.

They acknowledge the role for government, but they also want to be more self-reliant. Participants have acknowledged that there are many things that government can and must do better, but most also agreed that our learning and competitive challenges will not be met by delivering a wish list to governments. On the contrary, they are looking to their own communities, companies and associations to develop the means we need to develop skills and become more capable competitors.

The challenge for government is determining how much governing is needed in the future -- I am sure that not everyone will agree on the amount or kind of instruments we use. Meeting the challenge implies a change in leadership. Instead of governments and other stakeholders acting on their own, with little regard for each other, we must strike a better balance -- one that respects the need to decide, but also respects the need to ensure the largest possible support for the decision.

The resounding outcome of the consultations is that Canadians want to be masters of their own destiny, not victims of a destiny decided for them by a global marketplace. Canadians have been demanding urgent action to do so. Furthermore, they want to do this, not merely to secure good jobs for themselves, but to preserve for future generations the quality of life they have enjoyed. This is a reflection of the nobler aspirations of all Canadians. I think it is a goal that every Canadian can endorse.

They have contributed, as you are, to building an action plan for securing prosperity in a rapidly changing economic environment. Doing so is no different than developing a business plan. Canadians regard it as just as crucial to Canada's probability of success in the future, as a sound business plan is to the success of any of your organizations.

Canadians from across this country have said that we can no longer afford to muddle along without a co-ordinated plan, and developing one is no small undertaking. However, it is not enough to develop such a plan. The plan will contain challenges for every Canadian. From both the private and public sector -- companies, individuals, parents, employers, entrepreneurs and employees, students and teachers -- every Canadian will be called upon to implement it. Canadians must be prepared to act on it! Canadians are saying to you here this evening and to their neighbours across the country:

- You will be affected by the plan.