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posture. We need to keep our own borders secure; we need special forces capability for rescue and counter-terrorist activity. We need to substantially bolster our intelligence-gathering and evaluation capabilities. However we reconfigure our armed forces, and I am no defender of the separate identities or procurement budgets of our forces, we need to maintain combat-capable land forces and we still need to have boats to secure our coast lines and planes to patrol our skies. Independence has to guide our defence decisions. We do not want to arrive at a situation where Canadian lives are in danger, at home or abroad, and we have to be dependent on someone else's capabilities, whether diplomatic, intelligence or military, to get us out of trouble. A helping hand *from* a friend is one thing, dependency is another. A helping hand *to* a friend is one thing—and so we should provide security cooperation, border monitoring in a close and cooperative manner—but subservience is another. Negatively, we must not be dependent, and we must not be subservient. Positively, we must stand on our own two feet.

Independence is also a vital economic interest. It's good for Canada and good for the global economy to extend free trade throughout the hemisphere, but we have to do so in a manner that defends our economic independence as a country. We can't base policy on a diehard defence of this or that industry, but we must ensure effective control of the basic levers of national economic policy, in relation to employment, interest rates, currency values and basic industrial structure. We need to guarantee our own independence, by assisting other more vulnerable countries in our trading zone to safeguard and enhance their own independence. Thus if we defend labour standards at home, we need to fight for equal labour standards across NAFTA and take measures that drag our industries into a race to the bottom. Finally, in our bilateral relations with our powerful neighbour, we need to stand up for ourselves. We cannot allow stronger partners to manipulate agreements signed in good faith to protect their own industries while devastating ours.

Independence is not just an interest: it is also a value. We care about our independence because we love our country. We have fought for it and some of our ancestors have died for it. Our independence has never been easy, and its future survival is not beyond question. Independence