

We are phasing out most trade barriers with the U.S. under the FTA. Some of these barriers, in beer and wine, for example, are also unacceptable under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Because of such international trade obligations, foreigners are gaining preferential access to Canadian markets. Surely it is time that Canadian producers are treated at least as well as foreigners in the Canadian market.

Action has been slow in coming, but most provinces have now agreed to give all domestic beer the same treatment, beginning July 1 this year. This should ensure that Canadian brewers are on the same footing in Canada as their American competitors.

The federal and provincial governments are working together to reduce and remove remaining barriers in other sectors. Last fall, for example, the governments signed an agreement, which came into effect just last week, to open most procurement by government departments over \$25,000 to bidding by companies across the country. This will open up several billion dollars of public spending to national competition. This is an important, if modest, beginning -- much remains to be done.

At their most recent meeting, the First Ministers of Canada considered the question of barriers to interprovincial trade, and directed that federal and provincial ministers complete the work of identifying, reducing and removing barriers to interprovincial trade by March 31, 1995. To pursue this crucial work, I will be meeting with my provincial counterparts at the end of this month, in Winnipeg, to discuss extending the procurement agreement to a wider segment of public sector procurement. We will also develop a plan to fulfil our mandate from the First Ministers -- eliminating interprovincial trade barriers by March, 1995.

To sum up, Mr. President, by removing barriers both within and without the Canadian market, we will create more competitive businesses, better able to take their place in the global marketplace of the twenty-first century. From a 27 million-strong, unified market in a prosperous, unified country, Canadians can seek out and explore world markets, secure in the knowledge that their own economy is being strengthened.

Canadians can confidently press for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Canadians can confidently strive for better relations with their largest trading partner, the United States, and Canadians can confidently forge a new economic relationship with a modern and dynamic Mexico. In doing all these things, Canadians will be carrying out their great, historic project -- the building and maintaining of a prosperous, united and compassionate nation across the northern half of the North American continent.