

Opportunities Agency as a first step in the direction of new growth. By enhancing and securing their access to the largest and wealthiest market in the world, Islanders will be better able to realize that potential. In the process, the agreement will provide further impetus to resolve a long-standing PEI concern: interprovincial trade barriers.

On another level, hard economic realities also point Islanders in the direction of endorsing the FTA. They realize that, in the context of global competition and the need to meet that challenge, we are better off adjusting in a market of 275 million people than in a market a tenth of that size. Further, they recognize that the agreement provides us with effective protection against growing U.S. protectionism. In short, by striking the delicate balance between these realities and our strong desire to maintain our economic and political sovereignty, Islanders will understand that the agreement is a sensible course of action that deserves their support.