

operation to one with facilities in both the United States and Canada.

3M Canada Inc., based here in London, has been a successful exporter for years and has always shown itself ready to capitalize on new opportunities. I'm told that in the last few years exports have grown to 20 percent of 3M Canada's total sales. More than 350 jobs are directly related to this growth. I applaud their efforts and the contribution that the company has made over the past 40 years with its plants in Ontario and in Manitoba.

Canada makes a special effort to recognize its achievers in export markets. In 1992, Canadian Export Awards were presented to 14 companies from coast to coast that have excelled in exporting their products and services around the globe. Among the winners was Dupont Canada Inc. At the time, Dupont President Arthur Sawchuk said that free trade motivated the company to think globally and allowed them to become more competitive. That, in a nutshell, is what free trade is all about. We must all look at free trade in the same light: as an opportunity, not as a threat.

The benefits of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement are emerging. The hard economic figures cannot be denied. The facts are indisputable. Canada's trade with the United States continues to grow. Our imports from the United States are up, and our exports to the United States are up even more.

Canada's merchandise exports to the world hit \$14.8 billion in April, up 16.7 percent from the previous year. That increase was largely accounted for by the rise in our sales to the United States. Exports to the United States rose by \$467 million in April to \$12 billion, a record level of exports to our largest trading partner.

Our year-to-date trade surplus with the United States is \$7.6 billion, a remarkable 58.9 percent above the comparable 1992 surplus.

These are the facts. In the fifth year of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, our trade with the United States has never been so large and vigorous. The composition of our exports to the United States also tells an important story. As our trade increases, so does the proportion of our trade in higher value-added products.

The hysterical charges made by critics of the Free Trade Agreement about the plight of our manufacturing economy are demonstrably untrue.