

It has been estimated that a 10% reduction in our exports alone could throw a quarter of a million Canadians out of work.

So we have a threat we cannot ignore. Canada can't afford to lose jobs, or to have them continue under constant threat. The arrangements we have now are not good enough. We need a better mechanism for settling trade disputes and irritants; for reaching agreement on controversies over subsidies for industry, agriculture and fisheries. In brief, we need something better just to preserve Canadian jobs.

That speaks of some of the obstacles we want to discuss with the Americans, in the interest of Canadian jobs and security.

But let's also look at the opportunities.

A better, fairer, more open trade arrangement with the United States would create new jobs, and better jobs. It would encourage new investment, not only foreign investment, but investment by Canadians as well, and that would build our industries and make them more competitive throughout the world. We would, in other words, be selling more products not only to the United States but to the rest of the world as well. Because we would be more competitive.