

What will be the relationship between Canada and Europe in the years ahead? It is surely for us to decide. The most cursory reading of Canadian history reveals the great extent to which our culture, institutions, and economy have been defined by ties to Europe. We began as colonies of European powers: first of France, then of Britain. Our population reflects the strong impact of European immigration. We have collaborated in the prosecution of wars and in the maintenance of peace. Our common membership in international organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, the OECD and now the WTO should provide a dynamic context for reinforcing the commercial, social and cultural linkages that bind us together.

We also need the courage, however, to face the new realities, to change and adapt, to form new arrangements to reflect our new relationship. Of one thing I am certain--North America and Europe will need each other in the days ahead at least as much as we have in the past.