

No one understands this more than the entrepreneurs and businesses of British Columbia.

But, let us remember that you cannot wish market share.

You cannot magically increase your exports to a highly competitive market because the Government has announced a new trade policy.

What Governments can and must do is create a trade and investment environment which gives the country's entrepreneurs, businesses and risk-takers a fighting chance.

That is what we have done with the Free Trade Agreement and with our other economic policies.

The Prime Minister and I, and all our colleagues in the Cabinet, believe in Canadians, in their spirit of enterprise, in their competitiveness and capacity to innovate.

Some people have described the Free Trade Agreement as a leap of faith. I describe it as an act of faith -- faith in enterprising Canadians and in their abilities.

Today, Canada has an enterprise environment.

We have deregulated the transportation sector. We deregulated energy.

We eliminated the Foreign Investment Review Agency, which had driven foreign investors away, and replaced it with Investment Canada, which has a mandate to promote investment in Canada.

Investors from around the world are discovering a new, healthier environment for business. Minoru Kanao, who headed a high-level Japanese business mission to Canada, said that he had discovered a "new Canada". He reported that the business mission found a new spirit of national reconciliation, an improved labour climate and a favourable attitude toward foreign investment.

The result?

A record \$7.5 billion worth of foreign direct investment in 1986. That same year, foreigners also invested \$26 billion worth of new portfolio investment in Canada. Investment is a vote of confidence in Canada, in its strong economic performance today and in its dynamic future.