

Our interest in building a strong relationship with the United States has not made us one-dimensional. In fact, it has been a factor in spurring us on to build bridges to every other region in the world.

It is no coincidence that Canada has been a leading member of the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, and the G-7, as well as the OAS [Organization of American States].

Arthur Meighen, a former Canadian Prime Minister, once described Canada-U.S. relations in the following way:

We are not in the same boat, but we are pretty much in the same waters.

What are those waters?

They are the ebb and flow of over \$260 billion worth of goods and services across our borders every year -- the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world.

They are the ebb and flow between our countries of millions of business people, academics, entertainers, scientists, and artists of all kinds every year.

They are the ebb and flow, on a massive scale, of information and technology between institutions, businesses, schools, hospitals and individuals.

They are the ebb and flow of billions of dollars worth of investment and technology to build plants, launch joint ventures, develop infrastructures, support research and promote greater economic activity.

And, there is the ebb and flow of the global waters through which both our countries must navigate -- shared challenges such as peace and security, environmental degradation, mass migrations of people, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the resurgence of destructive forms of nationalism and inter-ethnic rivalries.

These issues and more demand not only careful attention, but constant and effective management.

No two countries in the world have a greater stake in each other's well-being than Canada and the United States. For our businesses, it means trade; for our people, it means jobs.

Happily, no two countries have done a better job of managing their relationship.