

technologies and products, which may be of interest to Ontario companies that specialize in such know-how.

In the labour discussions, we will be pressing for the establishment of a trinational body to focus on the improvement of working conditions and living standards in all three countries.

Trade liberalization -- internationally -- is essential if Canadians are to have access to wider world markets. But what about here in Canada? Barriers to the free movement of goods, services, capital and people have created fragmented markets.

Two years ago, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association estimated that the hundreds of barriers cost our economy over \$6.5 billion. In a world where being competitive at home is the basis of international competitiveness and of prosperity, fragmented local markets promote the uncompetitive. Creating barriers may have been intended to protect local interests, but in reality these barriers may set up local firms for failure when they are exposed to international competition.

A recent Canadian Chamber of Commerce study shattered the myth that barriers protect industry or that industry wants to maintain the status quo. It found that only 5 per cent of industry benefitted from barriers and that 95 per cent did not.

You know this. You see the operation of barriers in your day-to-day business. You must know of companies who were unsuccessful in bidding on a contract, not because of the price or quality but rather because of the location of the head office, or the place of residence of the workers. Some barriers to internal trade have been with us since Confederation. Some are as new as this spring's flowers -- if we ever see any. But all barriers, no matter how well-meaning their originators, have similar effects that discriminate against other Canadians.

David Morton, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Alcan, says, "Without the abolition of interprovincial trade barriers, we are fighting world competition with one hand tied behind our back." In fact, in some areas, our barriers to internal trade make it easier for foreigners to trade in Canada than for Canadians.

Canadians know that the time has come to remove these barriers to trade. Throughout 1992 the Steering Group on Prosperity consulted with over 10,000 Canadians, as well as business, labour, educational and social action groups, about the competitive and learning challenges that we face as a nation. Canadians told the Steering Group that it was time to eliminate all barriers to internal trade. I could not agree more.