

I want you to buy into the Prosperity Initiative. What are we asking you to invest? Your talent, your brains, and your concern about the future of Canada.

What is really under consideration here is not just the prosperity of an economy. At heart, what is at stake is the survival of a nation.

Some say that we have been preoccupied for too long on the constitutional issue and it is time to get back to work. I say that the constitutional and the prosperity issue are inseparable.

Canadians have a great stake in our continued prosperity. Improving our competitiveness means a higher standard of living. This, in turn, will provide us the means to be a caring society. A society that can secure the social programs we see as essential to our being Canadian. A society that can continue to support the arts and culture which helps us to understand ourselves. A society with the means, and the will, to make our education and technologies second to none in the world.

Some of you will know that a recent United Nations study ranked Canada as the second best place to call home. I think in our hearts we all know that it is second to none. The Prosperity and Unity Agendas are aimed at making that a reality.

Thank you.