

The number, by the way, is 1-800-267-8376, and our operators are standing by now. That number again is 1-800-267-8376.

These are really just examples of the kinds of trade support services offered by the department. All of these programs have served well, and we intend to make them even better. For example, I outlined in Saskatoon some proposed changes in the Program for Export Market Development, which we believe will make it serve its business clientele even better. We also decided to place a small staff in Washington to monitor early development of procurement opportunities at the multilateral development banks which are headquartered there. This and other refinements in our trade intelligence gathering system are designed to improve our ability to seize export opportunities in developing countries. These are rapidly developing markets, and we intend to improve the share of business Canadians obtain in this area.

We believe that Government must be more closely attuned than ever before to the export community. We intend to be. We intend to strengthen the communications network that links the private sector, federal export-oriented agencies and the counterpart provincial agencies. We intend to streamline government services to respond with a speed and precision that conform to the requirements of international business.

If we are to have excellence, it will have to be founded on collaboration between business and government.

But excellence presumes consensus as to the road ahead, and consensus can best be achieved through the kind of dialogue that I hope will begin here tonight and will end in the charting of a new course, a true course, in the development of our trade policy.

Thank you very much.