

Blaming every sparrow that falls on the FTA is no longer credible -- and gets even less credible with every new report on Canada's economic performance and outlook.

The English historian Macauley said:

Free trade, one of the greatest blessings which a government can confer on a people, is in almost every country unpopular.

He meant that no country ever pursued free trade without resistance from entrenched interests. But the entrenched interests cannot fool all of the people all of the time. They can neither hide the evidence, nor ignore it. All their diversionary tactics and fearmongering rhetoric cannot bury the truth. The benefits of the FTA, buttressed as they are by our economic reforms, are emerging in the form of hard economic figures that cannot be denied. Evidence of the value of our policies are there for Canadians to judge for themselves.

I am confident that Canadians, after a fair appraisal of the facts, will recognize where their best interest lies.

The facts are indisputable. Our trade with the United States continues to grow. Annual imports are up. Our exports are up even more.

And look at the composition of those exports. Canadian exports rose most sharply in 1992 in high-end manufacturing products. They performed particularly well -- and this point bears underscoring -- in those sectors where tariffs have been eliminated by the FTA, or where they were being rapidly phased out.

Furthermore, Canada's share of a number of U.S. markets for value-added manufactured goods is growing.

Canadian manufactured products as a percentage of the total U.S. market has risen and has now reached a record level. They now represent 2.6 per cent of the U.S. market. That figure only sounds small: it isn't -- not in the large U.S. market. The figure represents a 20-per cent rise in Canada's share of the U.S. manufactured goods market in just a decade.

Transportation equipment, chemical, electrical and electronic, and paper products are the sectors that are leading this expansion.

Canada's exports to the United States of office, telecommunications and precision instruments was valued at \$9.3 billion in 1991, up a remarkable 74 per cent since 1989, the year the FTA went into effect.

In the manufacturing sector, these are the high-end products. They contain more value-added by the highly skilled Canadian