

The provinces are in the best position to play a leading role in this area. Provinces are usually closer to the client base, understand their needs better, and in many instances have a closer ear to the ground.

The agreement that Premier Klein and I are signing today sets us squarely on this path. It commits us to work together to develop export readiness programs. It enhances our efforts to build a "Trade Team Canada" approach to global markets.

But as with the agreements with other provinces, the Memorandum of Understanding is not a panacea. We shall have to work hard to make the agreement a non-bureaucratic, results-oriented, practical tool. And we cannot stop there. We must find practical ways to overcome jurisdictional overlap to better serve the business community and indeed the whole country.

In international trade and investment, the role of government is to support the business community through programs that help the private sector to penetrate foreign markets. We shall accordingly continue to work toward widening the reach of our free trade partnerships and to take advantage of the opportunities created. Together with domestic fiscal reforms to enhance our international competitiveness, they provide the basis for our sustained growth and job creation.

The global business opportunities facing Canadians can be remarkably rewarding. The bottom line is that high-quality, high-paying jobs are created when we are successful in foreign markets. Nineteen ninety-four was a banner year for exports. We must maintain the momentum. By pooling the resources and the talents of both our public and our private sectors, we shall reap the rewards in export markets. All Canadians expect and deserve no less.

Thank you.