

attic . . .". Our proximity, our friendship and our open border have translated into a mutually profitable commercial partnership. History has shown how we seized that opportunity. Canada and the United States have the single largest two-country trading relationship in the world. Our bilateral trade is worth \$200 billion annually.

The enormity of our trading relationship may surprise many of our American colleagues. Canada, not Japan, is the largest trading partner of the United States. About 75% of Canada's exports go to the United States. Over 65% of Canada's imports come from the United States. In 1989, New England alone sold almost \$5.5 billion in exports to Canada. Hence the importance we must both attach to maintaining and nurturing our commercial relations as well as our longstanding friendship.

New Brunswick knows the strength and importance of this trading relationship. Between January and September, 1989, New Brunswick exports to the United States totalled almost \$1.4 billion - over 60% of New Brunswick's world exports for the period. The province exported to the United States almost \$450 million of mineral fuels, \$266 million of wood pulp, \$224 million of paper and over \$100 million each of wood/lumber products and fish. Our electricity exports, much of which went to or through Maine, totalled \$168 million.

During those same nine months, New Brunswick imported more than \$676 million worth of goods from the United States - almost 45% of the province's total world imports. Among New Brunswick's imports from the United States were \$135 million of machinery and equipment, \$81 million of vehicles and parts, and \$47 million of electrical machinery.

New Brunswick and Maine exemplify the natural interdependence of our national economies. In the long run, what is good for each of us is good for the other. We need to be concerned about each other's economic health, not just as friends, but as business partners. As this gathering well knows, to prosper together, we must work together.

The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement is a major component in our mutual national efforts to strengthen the trading relationship between our countries. The FTA came into force just over 15 months ago. It provides the framework and the opportunity for each country to enhance trade relations with the other.

It is particularly appropriate that I speak about free trade before an audience composed in part of new Brunswickers. This province has been a leader in seizing opportunities