

Canada that is consistent with this heritage; a team with great leadership already in place and ready to start implementing its decision by implementing the Free Trade Agreement.

This is a vision which sees a nation bold enough not only to compete with the best in the world but to allow people the maximum opportunity to act freely and reach their full potential. It is a view of Canada as a caring society, one which provides a safety net for all those who fall, but a safety net which is taut enough to allow them to bounce back. It is not a socialist vision of a country so complicated by government regulations and bureaucracy that the very people it tries to help become entangled in its mesh, their lives and opportunities smothered in debilitating red tape.

The Canada which I and my constituents envisage cannot come about unless we have a healthy, dynamic economy. The Free Trade Agreement is a fundamental cornerstone in making this vision a reality. This agreement promises a nation which is sovereign, competitive and resourceful. It releases Canadians to trade freely. It permits Canadians to hone and perfect their skills. It allows Canadians to prosper.

Let us take a look at why the Free Trade Agreement is so important to the people of Calgary North. For the oil and gas industry, the Free Trade Agreement provides assured access to our largest export market. Calgary North has suffered too often from boom and bust cycles. Once the Free Trade Agreement is in place, we will no longer have to worry about waking up one morning and discovering that our exports have been cut off or that we have a made-in-Canada price for oil, a made-in-Canada price that sucks \$60 billion out of the Alberta economy. That is right, Madam Speaker. Hon. Members on the other side may be upset that this Progressive Conservative Government has put a stop to the practice of ripping off Alberta. They are not happy with the concept of market prices for our resources, but the people of Calgary North have made their position clear.

During the recent election as a newcomer to politics I was shocked at the depth to which the opposition Parties would stoop. I had numerous calls from elderly constituents, some of them literally in tears because they had been told they were going to lose their pensions and their medicare. There is nothing which can excuse the development of this abject fear in our senior citizens. The stories we have heard, that we cannot compete with the U.S. because of our medicare costs, are completely ridiculous. It costs a Canadian company only \$18 per

month per employee for complete medicare. An American company trying to compete would have to pay up to \$100 or more for the same type of coverage. Even if there were such a condition in the Free Trade Agreement, there is no way that we would have to consider lowering our programs in order to be competitive.

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The Free Trade Agreement means a stronger economy and the ability to work on eliminating the deficit and reducing the national debt. It is only then that we will be able to pay for better services, not only for pensions and health care, but for education where there is a real need for expanded programs and the development of enriched curricula.

For the people of Calgary North who work in the retail and wholesale trade, the Free Trade Agreement means increased economic activity, greater consumption, growth in sales, and more jobs. Under the Free Trade Agreement, with the elimination of tariffs, there will be a better selection of goods and lower and more competitive prices. Not only will owners, managers, and employees in the retail and wholesale sectors benefit, but the ultimate beneficiaries will be ordinary Calgaryans and ordinary Canadians.

In manufacturing, the larger market provided by the Free Trade Agreement will mean opportunities for increased efficiency and product specialization. This is particularly important in high-technology industries, such as the manufacture of telecommunications and electronic components.

In the petrochemical industry 75 per cent of our products are exported to the United States. At the present time tariffs on polyethylene are 12.5 per cent and 18 per cent on methanol. Under free trade these will be removed. I can assure Hon. Members that we will see significant expansion and diversification, and many more jobs for people in Calgary North in this important oil and gas-based industry. This is an important point. It is essential to have diversification and expansion of industries that process and upgrade our natural resources, if the people of Calgary North are to avoid the boom and bust cycles I mentioned earlier.

The Free Trade Agreement will also contribute substantially to increases in construction activity. The increased economic activity will require more residential and more commercial building. This will mean more jobs for our carpenters, electricians, and trades people. Less expensive materials will be available and therefore there will be opportunities to purchase buildings and