

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

The people of Macleod share a strong sense of history with many other Canadians. But because of our history, we Albertans appreciate certain values—which we hope all Canadians will seize and once again hold dear.

We in the riding of Macleod are close to our history. As a younger man I can remember marvelling at the depth of history in other parts of this country. I recall reflecting upon the fact that buildings can be found in St. John's, Halifax, or Montreal that are hundreds of years old. The oldest buildings remaining in my part of Canada are less than a century old.

I came to appreciate the value of being so close to our own history. I grew up in the company of people who, when they were building their lives, were building the history of my corner of Canada.

The advantage we take from that history is that we have acquired the values of our immediate forebearers, and it is those values—values of practical self-reliance, of courage, of perhaps bloody-minded determination—which will carry us through the years ahead.

As the son and a grandson of cattle ranchers who built their lives in the foothills of southern Alberta, I cherish those values—values which so many of us share. Above all else, we treasure the fierce spirit of self-reliance characterized by the hunters, the farmers, the ranchers, the oilmen, the lumbermen, and the coal miners who opened up our part of the country.

Let me go back first to the people who inhabited the mountains and the plains and the foothills, those who have so strongly influenced those of us who live in the riding of Macleod. The native peoples, primarily of the Blackfoot confederacy, lived a nomadic life which today is recognized in such historic sites as the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, near Fort Macleod. With a first class interpretive centre, this location is recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site.

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I should add that the natives of the plains benefited from unfettered trade with their neighbours long before other races arrived on the scene. Further, after the arrival of the non-natives, our communities had free trade with our American neighbours to our mutual benefit. That was when the means of supply was oxen wagons from Fort Benton, Montana, long before the CPR arrived.

As the new Member for the renewed historic riding of Macleod I cannot fail to mention Colonel James F.

Macleod who helped lead the Royal Northwest Mounted Police to the West. On behalf of the Dominion of Canada this force established law and order. It wasn't easy. The Americans had nothing to teach us, we did it in our own fair minded but determined Canadian manner using tact and diplomacy.

After Fort Macleod was founded in the autumn of 1874, a second fort was established. This second post, which has always suffered in the shadow of Fort Macleod, is that small community on the northern outskirts of my riding, locally known as Fort Calgary. Some of you may have heard of it.

Along the Macleod Trail between these two centres grew the communities of Dewinton, Okotoks, High River, Cayley, Nanton, Stavley, Claresholm and Granum. One of the landmark events in western development was the signing of treaty seven between Her Majesty the Queen and the native peoples of our area. Today the descendants of those natives have four reservations within the riding of Macleod. The Blackfoot are at Glietzen, the Peigan at Bocket, the Sarcee near Calgary and some of the Stoney or Assinaboine at Eden Valley. These people have had a proud but at times troubled history. However, I believe they have a strong future and I look forward to working with them to build our future together.

I mentioned many communities of Macleod and they are now looking forward with eager anticipation to implementation of the Free Trade Agreement. We need the economic diversification and the manufacturing jobs. The opportunities this agreement will bring are so important to our young people. We want to give them the choice to come back to our small communities and work where they were raised.

We all know the future will not necessarily be an easy ride. It never has been easy. We recall the loss of more than 60 lives when, at 4.10 a.m. on April 29, 1903, the face of Turtle Mountain in the Crowsnest Pass came tumbling down on a sleeping mining town. Today, the Frank Slide interpretive centre commemorates that tragedy, as well as the Hillcrest mine disaster and other significant events. It also pays tribute to the people from so many diverse nationalities who suffered through the trials and tribulations, the booms and busts of international coal markets. The people of the Crowsnest Pass understand perhaps all too well what tough times are. Many look forward to the FTA which will decrease the cost of mining equipment, making our coal more competitive in international markets.