

Thank you, Jim,<sup>1</sup> for your kind introduction and thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for this opportunity to join your conference on Free Trade Within Canada -- something upon which Confederation was founded. Indeed, the Fathers of Confederation included elimination of tariffs on interprovincial trade as a key part of the Confederation agreement. The record since then, however, has seen a sad history of building non-tariff barriers to trade at home.

This history was on the mind of the Rowell-Sirois Royal Commission when they suggested, in their 1940 report, that, "There should be complete freedom of trade and commerce throughout Canada; complete freedom of investment; complete freedom of movement." That was 1940.

Much has changed since then. The population of Vancouver was 350,000 in 1940; it is now over 1.5 million. The population of Canada has grown from less than 12 million to over 27 million. We have changed. But over half a century later, we are still working to achieve freedom of trade and commerce as recommended in the Rowell-Sirois report. However, we are now beginning to see action and, by March 31, 1995, the vision is slated to become reality.

There are literally thousands of steps between today's reality and the vision of free trade within Canada in 1995. Many of those steps will have to be taken by governments, but most of them will involve you, your way of doing business and the markets you serve.

I hope that it will mean that we have opened up market access to the most important market served by Canadians -- Canada! Without your commitment, however, we cannot reach that goal because governments alone cannot bring the barriers down.

This morning I would like to talk about those steps. They are also steps to a prosperous, competitive Canada.

First I'd like to talk about the problem of interprovincial trade barriers and how the federal and provincial governments are setting about to eradicate them. Most importantly, I want to call upon your assistance and advice so that we can keep the momentum going. I need your help to ensure that, by 1995, our vision -- and that of the Fathers of Confederation -- becomes a reality.

During the Community Talks, which were a key part of the consultations related to the Prosperity Initiative launched by

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<sup>1</sup> James Matkin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Business Council of British Columbia.