

Companies in Canada and Chile are now involved in more than 30 joint ventures ranging across a broad spectrum of economic activity. These are sophisticated joint ventures -- ones that could lead to greater penetration of third country markets in the southern cone.

Canadians know they must continue to seek out new markets and establish new partnerships if we are to prosper in today's global economy. This certainly includes the markets of Latin America.

Canada is responding to these changed realities by asserting its status as a nation of the Americas. We became a full partner in the Organization of American States in January 1990, with all the privileges and responsibilities that membership entails.

We now are actively reaching out to those Latin American nations that are committed to the democratic process and respect for human rights.

We see freer trade as an integral part of these renewed relationships. We believe that freer trade contributes to increased prosperity, and prosperity leads to the stability in which democracy can flourish.

Canada and Chile share a common commitment to democratic institutions, a common belief in liberalized trade and a mutual interest in export development. Our countries have only begun to tap the great potential for expanded trade and economic co-operation.

By strengthening contacts between our respective trade and investment communities, we can work together for greater prosperity throughout the Americas.

We have much to learn from one another and about one another, and now is a good time to start. Thank you. Muchos gracias.