

Canada and the United States were the first to act against the strong protectionist pressures of that time. We began, together the process of tearing down these obstacles to growth. Canada and the United States concluded a bilateral trade agreement in 1935.

More countries joined us in 1938. And the principles underlying the Canadian-American bilateral agreement formed the foundation of the post-war multilateral trading system.

For half a century Canada has pursued a policy of trade liberalization. Today more than ever, our prosperity and that of our partners depend on an expanding world trade and a growing world economy.

This government was elected to create jobs and growth. As one important step, we have embarked on a campaign to reduce trade barriers around the world and to enhance Canada's access to markets everywhere. Let me give you four examples.

We are pursuing these goals both on the multilateral front with all the countries participating in GATT and, as well, bilaterally, with our major trading partner, the United States.