

full range of government policies, instruments and programs. They will draw together the efforts of other federal departments, the provinces and the private sector.

In international trade matters, the role of government is to support the efforts of the business community through trade development programs and policy initiatives that help the private sector take advantage of the opportunities offered by foreign markets.

Trade policy and trade development are therefore the reverse sides of the same coin; one cannot exist without the other. They, in turn, make no sense without the efforts of companies to develop new markets.

We shall accordingly continue to work with you towards widening the reach of our free trade partnerships and taking advantage of the opportunities created. Together with domestic reforms to enhance our international competitiveness, they provide the basis for sustaining growth and job creation in Canada.

As we look to the future and contemplate what tools we can provide the business community to help it further in the new global economy, one overarching reality stands out: the need to reconcile Canada's fiscal reality with the need to remain internationally competitive.

Indeed, I would go further: if we do not take the necessary steps domestically – on debt reduction, social reform, and government restructuring – to make Canada more competitive, no number of trade agreements or trade development tools will secure Canada's economic future. That fundamental challenge we shall meet with next Monday's budget.

Thank you.