

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

him as Speaker and you, as his representative, in this venerable House today, Madam Speaker.

It is with a complex mixture of humility and pride that I have taken my seat in this Chamber and with which I address you today. I am deeply indebted to the people of Calgary North for the confidence they have placed in me and for the overwhelming support they gave me on election day. I intend to ensure that they are effectively represented while I have the opportunity to serve them here.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and his Cabinet for the outstanding leadership they provided in the recent election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Johnson: It was leadership that Canada needed, leadership that Canada wanted, and leadership that Canadians once again have. I am proud to be a part of the Progressive Conservative team that will lead Canada into the 21st century. I would also like to thank members of my family who worked so hard to help me achieve my lifetime goal of being a representative here. My sincere appreciation to June, Cynthia, David, and Thomas; to Keith, Mark, and Nickie.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Johnson: Calgary North is one of the oldest constituencies in Alberta. It has its roots in the original constituency of Calgary East, and it was created by redistribution in 1952. The citizens of Calgary North have shared the Progressive Conservative vision for more than 40 years, having been represented by Mr. Paul Gagnon who, as you know, brought clarity and integrity to the deliberations of this House for the last four years.

It is an honour to follow in his footsteps and those of such other dedicated servants of the people as Bill Wright, who represented Calgary North with determination after succeeding Eldon Woolliams, who is still remembered on the Hill as an outstanding member and a hard-working contributor to the activities and committees of this House. This vital Canadian constituency was first represented by the late Hon. Douglas Scott Harkness, who made a substantial contribution to this House and to the nation as the Minister of Agriculture in 1957 and later as the Minister of National Defence in the early 1960s.

Calgary North is essentially a residential constituency and the people who live there are ordinary Canadians who, under the leadership of dedicated Members of Parliament, have, as I have indicated, guarded the Progressive Conservative vision of Canada for more than 40 years. These people work in the oil and gas industry as geologists, engineers, geophysicists, technicians, drillers, foremen, technologists, secretaries, clerks, accountants, lawyers, administrators, salesmen, rough-necks, and labourers. They work in the oil and gas service industries providing computer services, well logging, consulting, catering, well serving, pipeline construction, operating and maintenance services. They teach in schools and universities, such as the University of Calgary and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. They operate day care centres, work in stores as sales clerks, supervisors, and managers. They serve in restaurants and motels. They drive trucks, build homes as carpenters, electricians, dry wallers, and labourers. They work for the telephone and communication companies, for newspapers, and for printing companies. They work for Governments providing social services, health care, and administrative support. They process meat and agricultural products. They sell real estate and insurance, and they provide financial services and computer support for industry. They work in a wide variety of manufacturing industries; most important, in manufacturing high-technology products.

Calgary North is a constituency that makes people welcome. This is demonstrated by the great diversity of ethnic and cultural backgrounds that are represented in our communities. Calgary North is home to native Canadians, to people of British, French, Irish, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Indian, Chinese, Czechoslovakian, Italian, Hungarian, Yugoslavian, and German backgrounds. Indeed, Madam Speaker, virtually every culture, ethnic group, and race is represented in this community where all thrive and share the vision of a land of opportunity.

These people are the quintessential ordinary Canadians and free trade is important to them. It is fundamental to them in achieving their vision of Canada. On November 21, they decided what course they wanted their future to take.

It is with the vision and convictions of my constituency that I address this House today. Not only am I privileged to represent Calgary North with its heritage of hard work, hospitality, and free enterprise traditions, I am also proud to be a member of the Progressive Conservative team that has developed a vision for