

export leader -- we can use market signals to help set our real trade priorities.

Lastly, we must foster a domestic economic environment conducive to export-led growth. It has become commonplace to observe that the boundary between national issues and international issues is becoming blurred. In the same way, the distinction between domestic policy instruments and trade policy instruments is in many instances meaningless. Regulatory and tax policies that unnecessarily inhibit export sectors must be revisited; regimes and restrictions that block constructive international investment must also be re-examined. As the world economy becomes increasingly open, Canada will inevitably be exposed to greater and more fluid investment flows. We need to ensure that Canada can attract the kind of high-quality foreign investment that will allow us to take advantage of technology transfers, to source from global markets, and to remain at the hub of international linkages and alliances.

The basic objective of trade policy is to further Canada's national economic interests at a time when these interests are perhaps more constant than the increasingly complex world with which we grapple. We can do a better job of ensuring that these interests are translated into bold policy objectives and clear priorities.

We can ensure that all of Canada's foreign policy tools are coordinated to further our interests abroad, while respecting the fact that these interests will always be varied. And we can vigorously defend the market access achieved through negotiations and realized in practice through the efforts of our export community, not hesitating to use the dispute-settlement provisions found in our international trade agreements to defend the interests of all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, today's debate marks, early in our mandate, a period of reflection and discussion about the direction of Canada's foreign policy in a radically new and more competitive world in which trade and economic issues will be at centre stage as never before. I am convinced that, by working through the issues together, we and all Canadians will emerge with a clearer sense of purpose and direction abroad that can only benefit the prosperity of all regions of Canada.

Thank you.