

Half a century later, we are still working to achieve the four freedoms -- the unrestricted flow of persons, goods, services and capital -- within our own common market. The program I have outlined will, I hope, set in place the framework for creating an effective economic union in Canada. I am convinced that we can achieve such a market by the application of a certain amount of political will combined with pressure from you here today.

Well what can you do about this competitive challenge? We cannot eliminate these barriers until we know what they are. One of the key problems we face in identifying barriers is that few of them ever see the light of day. I want you to shed some light on them, so we can see them for what they have become -- costly barriers to doing business. I am not saying that all barriers are wrong, but we need to know about those which no longer make any sense, so we can eliminate them.

So, I am asking each of you to take a hard and detailed look at the way you do business, and the barriers you face in your business. Prioritize those which are most difficult. I need to know which barriers should be addressed first, and I need to know it by the Spring.

Officials will be consulting business associations, and doing other research to identify barriers, so share your findings with them either directly or during your sectoral consultations which are coming up as part of the Prosperity Initiative.

I know that there are some, in Canada, -- even some here today -- who are uncertain about a future without what they have come to regard as protective barriers. To them I say that the removal of barriers to internal trade will give us access to our best and most important market -- Canada. I am certain that in doing so we will create more competitive businesses, better able to take their place in the evermore competitive global marketplace.

If we can build a more integrated and effective economic union, we will all benefit from the strength our businesses build up at home, because their competitive ability will also generate the wealth Canada needs to have the means to be a caring society.

Canada is one of the world's great success stories.

We would do well to stay together, and stand together, as one country rather than two. There is strength in our numbers, 27 million, standing together on the northern half of this continent. Strength in pressing for a successful Uruguay Round. Strength in dealing with our American trading partners. Strength in negotiating a North American Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. and Mexico. Strength in dealing with the New Europe and the Pacific Rim countries.