

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS EVENING IN THIS GREAT CITY, THE EMBODIMENT OF SO MANY OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES THAT REST AT THE BASIS OF OUR DEMOCRACY. I FIND IT PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE THAT MY FIRST APPEARANCE HERE, AS FOREIGN MINISTER, SHOULD BE AT THE CANADA CLUB. THIS CLUB OWES ITS ORIGINS TO THE FUR TRADERS OF THE NORTH-WEST COMPANY, AND SO DOES WESTERN CANADA, FROM WHICH I COME. THE OLD "COMPANY OF ADVENTURERS TRADING INTO HUDSON BAY" HAS CREDIT FOR OPENING WESTERN CANADA, BUT THEY WERE LED WEST AND FORCED WEST BY THE MORE AGGRESSIVE ADVENTURERS OF THE NORTH-WEST COMPANY. ANYONE WHO QUESTIONS THE IDEA OF ENTERPRISE SHOULD REFLECT THAT, WITHOUT THE COMMERCIAL INITIATIVE THAT ANIMATED THIS PARTICULAR CLUB, MY RICH REGION OF CANADA WOULD HAVE HAD ITS DEVELOPMENT DELAYED BY DECADES. AND HAD THAT DEVELOPMENT BEEN DELAYED, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO INSPIRATION TO SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD TO STRETCH HIS COUNTRY WESTWARD, FROM SEA TO SEA.

A CANADIAN CAN SCARCELY TALK ABOUT OUR COUNTRY WITHOUT THINKING OF OUR PROFOUND CONNECTIONS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TRADITIONS START HERE - AND PART OF WHAT I WANT TO SAY TONIGHT IS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF CANADA - WITH AN OVERWHELMING MANDATE - INTENDS TO RENEW THOSE TRADITIONS OF ENTERPRISE, OF OPENNESS AND OF CONSTRUCTIVE INTERNATIONALISM WHICH HAVE DEFINED OUR COUNTRY AT OUR BEST.