

NOBODY IS GOING TO LOOK AFTER CANADA EXCEPT CANADA. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN LOOK AFTER OURSELVES -- WITH OUR IMMENSE POTENTIAL AND OUR SMALL POPULATION -- IS TO BECOME HIGHLY COMPETITIVE, AND BUILD ON THOSE INTERESTS WE SHARE WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY OUR INTEREST IN A MORE OPEN WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

I MAKE THIS POINT BECAUSE THERE IS OFTEN A ROMANTIC NOTION THAT CANADA'S NATURAL WEALTH -- OR INGENUITY OR CHARACTER -- MAKE US IMMUNE TO THE CHANGES THAT ARE TRANSFORMING THE WORLD. THERE IS A TEMPTATION FOR CANADIANS TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN GROW WITHOUT CHANGING. THAT IS A DANGEROUS ILLUSION, BECAUSE IT STOPS US FROM THINKING ABOUT HOW WE BUILD A STRONG FUTURE OF OUR OWN.

NOW, HOW DO WE BUILD THAT FUTURE?

I WANT TO REVIEW WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS INTENDING IN FOUR FIELDS -- INVESTMENT, COMPETITIVENESS, THE NEW GATT ROUND, AND DIRECT ENCOURAGEMENT OF CANADIAN TRADE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE PACIFIC RIM.

WE GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO RESTORING CANADA'S REPUTATION AS A COUNTRY THAT WELCOMES AND REWARDS INVESTMENT. OUR FIRST MAJOR INITIATIVE WAS TO REPLACE FIRA, AND MICHAEL WILSON'S BUDGET WILL CONTINUE THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ENTERPRISE AND INVESTMENT. WE WANT