

that have been made, such as the recent studies by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council and the Economic Council, as well as on the positive impact that trade liberalization has had in the past on the New Brunswick economy.

New Brunswick needs to build on its resource-based strengths and further develop its secondary manufacturing and service sectors. New Brunswick entrepreneurs, and not just the big, well known names, are very much equal to the task. The federal government has created the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency as a first step in the direction of new growth. By enhancing and securing their access to the largest and wealthiest market in the world, New Brunswickers will be better able to realize that potential.

On another level, hard economic realities also point New Brunswickers in the direction of endorsing the FTA. They realize that, in the context of global competition and the need to meet that challenge, we are better off adjusting in a market of 275 million people than in a market a tenth of that size. Further, they recognize that the agreement provides us with effective protection against growing U.S. protectionism. In short, by striking the delicate balance between these realities and our strong desire to maintain our economic and political sovereignty, New Brunswickers understand that the agreement is a sensible course of action that deserves their support.