

They will train people to fill the new jobs being spawned by complex and changing technologies and trade patterns.

The use of technology is a key to improved international competitiveness. But we won't produce that technology without cooperation.

The experience here in Saskatchewan is a fine example of government, universities and industry working together to develop the expertise needed in the international marketplace. Work being done here on fibre optics, satellite equipment, new farm techniques, biotechnology and process controls make this province the site of some of the most interesting new initiatives in technological innovation in Canada.

I want to ensure that the federal government supports such initiatives. In my Department, changes will be made to bring together our science and technology divisions and give them a clear mandate to assist export marketing efforts by industry. But we will also seek to improve the transfer of technology inflow by targeting those sectors in which we have not or cannot develop Canadian solutions. Our science counsellors abroad will work closely with our Trade Commissioners in the interests of Canadian business.

There is a very broad consensus in Canada that we must commit ourselves fully to the expansion and diversification of export trade. Our challenge now is to extend this commitment to the technology trade area, and to the maintenance of Canadian excellence in this field.

This is one of my first speeches to exporters since becoming Minister, and my first speech in western Canada. I want to make it clear how our new government will approach federal-provincial relations in the trade area and how I see international trade as a cooperative venture.

Export Trade Month involves both levels of government, as well as labour and the private sector. I would like this attitude - this policy of working together for common goals - to be a priority, not just in this Special Month, but throughout the year. And I'm starting today. This afternoon, I will meet with Eric Berntson in Regina and on Friday I will meet with the Minister responsible for trade in the Manitoba government. I intend to be open to provincial ideas just as I wish to listen to the concerns and suggestions of industry and labour.

I would hope that in trade development and trade promotion our activities will be complementary - not overlapping. No doubt there will be differing views. But we share a common objective - to enhance the capability of our exporters and increase the level of our export trade. And I am confident that if we work together, we will succeed.