

And if we are competitive in these three mega-economies, we will be competitive anywhere in the world -- whether in India, or Brazil or in Eastern Europe.

Some may wonder why I have discussed our global trade strategy at this conference, given its focus on Canada-U.S. Trade.

I have done so intentionally, to make a point.

My point is that the Free Trade Agreement is not the end of our journey -- just the next logical step.

Our ultimate goal is not to encourage new exporters to sell in New England, or old exporters to move deeper into the U.S. market. For the American market is but a stepping stone to the broader world. And our ultimate goal must be to develop an outward-looking trading culture, where the knowledge and expertise of Canadians matches the importance of international trade to our economy. A country whose perspective is global.

We all know that the longest journey begins with a single step.

Free trade with the United States is one step in our global strategy. And Interaction 89 is one step in making the Free Trade Agreement work for Atlantic Canada.

I hope you find the trade fair useful and rewarding; and I wish all of you the best in the future.

Thank you.