

Partnership can be an integral part of a new Canadian competitiveness built on co-operation and partnership. The creation of the Canadian Association of Service Industries, which Mr. Robert Ferchat and others formed with the co-operation of Industry, Science and Technology Canada, is an excellent example of partnership between the public and private sectors. The government was pleased to be able to provide some financial support for the creation of this important new association.

Our challenges are urgent. Our Prosperity Initiative is making the best use of the time we have. It is making sure that we get the solutions right, and that we get them right the first time. The Prosperity Initiative is an opportunity for Canadians to work together to develop a plan to create a globally competitive Canadian economy.

We Canadians have proven, in the past, and we prove every day that we can meet challenges, and meet them successfully and convincingly. Canadians have the skills and the technology to meet the challenges of the global economy but we must continue to upgrade them. The most important challenge we face is how to organize ourselves better to use our skills and our technology more effectively.

That is what the Prosperity Initiative is all about: working together as a team -- through partnership -- for greater competitiveness in the global marketplace for a stronger and better Canada.

Thank you.