

That is not a new challenge - it would be a central question whether we took no initiative on trade or entered into better arrangements or, most particularly, if present protectionism caused a massive loss of Canadian jobs. Cultural industries and institutions depend particularly on a strong economy - in the private sector and in the public sector.

Nor is the question of Canada's sovereign identity new to me. Je connais quelquechose de mon pays dans mes deux langues. For eight long months, four years ago I fought and changed a constitutional measure, precisely because I believe it offended the nature of my country. In two public incarnations, I have had the honour to help the Canadian people express our nature in response to foreign crises, once in Ethiopia, once on the Indo-Chinese seas, with acts of generosity and sacrifice. Like my Prime-Minister, and many of our colleagues I came into active politics in response to Mr. Diefenbaker's vision and had the honour, a month ago, to announce sovereign decisions to ensure that northern integrity be proclaimed.

I know something about this country - its strength, its contradictions, its sense of vulnerability. My own view is that, in recent years, we have become much stronger, as a national community, much more sure of our ability to compete.