

Finally, some critics seem to focus exclusively on what the federal government can do, should do, has not done, or should not do. This misses another central point that Canadians made in the consultations. They said that future prosperity cannot be built by the federal government alone. They understand that turning on the tap of short-term government spending just leaves us with a growing pile of debt and no better equipped to compete in a global marketplace. Canadians said, in no uncertain terms, that we have to get past this mindset. This Action Plan does this by aiming at labour, management, business, educators, students, parents and -- yes -- the federal, provincial and local governments. It says all stakeholders must build prosperity -- together. I urge all Canadians to read the Plan and to start thinking about how we might all implement it. As far as the federal government is concerned, that is what we intend to do.

As you know, Canada ranks among the top 10 countries in the Western world in the size of its pharmaceutical market -- a market that is part of an even larger and expanding market under the FTA with the United States and the NAFTA with the U.S. and Mexico.

This sector -- particularly the brand-name drug industry -- is also subject to the pressures of global trade, which are forcing worldwide sectoral rationalization and restructuring. These pressures include increased competition among sister subsidiaries in different countries for allocation of international research and development (R & D) and manufacturing mandates by their parent companies. I am convinced that Canadian companies can compete in this new global environment.

Let me explain why. First, we have in Canada a well developed medical and clinical research infrastructure. We have a strong Medical Research Council, which supports training and research in the health sector and jointly funds awards with your own association. We have four National Networks of Centres of Excellence in the health care area with a number of pharmaceutical companies directly involved.

Our regulatory requirements are strict and result in the production of high-quality pharmaceutical products. We have one of the most generous R & D tax packages in the world, based on a combination of federal and provincial measures. And we are doing more.

Just a few weeks ago, my colleagues, the ministers of Finance and National Revenue, announced changes to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Investment Tax Credit Program.

The changes -- developed in close consultation with Industry, Science and Technology Canada -- will provide additional credits of \$230 million over the next five years and will streamline the