

own work; and second, that this experiment will succeed only if Canadians do more than vent frustrations, but instead think seriously about this remarkable country, how it needs to be changed, what it means to us, and what it can become.

Susan Van De Velde farms near Mariapolis in Manitoba and has been active in local hospital and farm organizations. When I phoned her to ask if she would serve as one of the 12 Commissioners, she said: "This is the chance of a lifetime." It is for her. It is, for all Canadians. And I hope that several of you, all of you, will take this opportunity to think about Canada, to talk about it with other Canadians, perhaps some whom you have never met before, so that the Canada that emerges is one in which we all feel pride.

We don't have forever. Look outside our borders at what others are doing, the choices they are making, and the challenges they are posing to Canadians as we prepare to enter the next century. We must adapt to those changes and face those challenges.

While Canadians maintain restrictions on trade between our own provinces, others outside are bringing trade barriers down.

While some Canadians contemplate separation, the rest of the world is integrating. The European Community is moving forward with astonishing speed. It is establishing a central bank, a common currency, even freer trade and it is moving towards political union.

While some Canadians complain about our democracy, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and the countries of Latin America are opening their borders and their societies and markets to take advantage of the terrific opportunity freedom is.

And while some Canadians still look only to old markets in Europe and our current markets in the United States, the Asian economies are exploding with an energy never seen before in modern economies.

That is a world which is trading and democratizing and developing and changing -- and Albertans and Canadians must meet that challenge.

It would be more comfortable in times of difficulty if countries could declare a time-out. But countries are not people. People can close windows and unplug phones. Countries