

We are also preparing a "self-help" kit that gives you access to information on immigration procedures, financing, export preparedness, partnering and marketing strategies.

You told us to bring down interprovincial trade barriers. I have been working with my provincial colleagues on the Committee of Ministers on Internal Trade, and we saw the first results last summer with the elimination of barriers to interprovincial trade in beer. We will continue those efforts.

You told us taxes were too high. Last February, Don Mazankowski cut the personal income surtax so that \$500 million will be put back into the pockets of Canada's taxpayers. He reduced corporate marginal tax rates and increased capital cost allowance rates.

You told us that regulations were excessive. The president of the Treasury Board, Gilles Loiseleur, has begun a department-by-department review of existing regulations to identify those that significantly reduce the competitiveness of Canadian industry and impose needless cost on consumers.

Step-by-step, consistently, conscientiously, and in close collaboration with our partners in the private sector, the Government of Canada is getting its own house in order. We still have work to do to improve our performance. I am looking for your advice on where the Government of Canada can do better, but I also want you to tell me what you intend to do to build Canada's economic future. You have said that you are in the best position to build the alliances that we need to make Canada competitive, and I agree. You have the Action Plan. The time has come to act.

How will you make the education system more sensitive to the needs of Canada's business community? How will you gather and disseminate strategic market information? How will you encourage investor confidence in your ventures? How will you help build research and development alliances that will give your companies the competitive edge? How are you going to develop a unified voice for the services sector?

The Government of Canada has been and will continue to be your partner. We have helped to celebrate and promote Canadian business achievement through last week's Canada Awards for Business Excellence (CABE) awards, and through the "Canada: Buy Into It" and "Yes, We Can!" campaigns. We have supported and helped to promote the activities of the Canadian Association of Service Industries. It is now time for you to take over these roles and take on more of the burden of leadership.

Throughout Services Month, 43 partners will be working to promote the success of over 60 events: from the Halifax workshop on how