

Our purpose in all trade negotiations is to improve foreign market access for Canadian businesses.

The question then becomes the following: will Canadians, and Albertans, be able to take advantage of new trade opportunities?

As to the US Agreement there is a remarkable unity of view - virtually all serious economic studies conclude that the Free Trade Agreement will generate significant overall benefits for Canada, spread across the country's regions. The Economic Council of Canada has just concluded that Alberta would enjoy a two percent gain in employment as a result of the impact of the Agreement.

There can be similar advantages if we succeed in the multilateral negotiations.

But trade agreements only provide the contact and the opportunity. Businesses make sales, not governments, and the real challenge is to Canadian expertise and Canadian entrepreneurs to take advantage of the widening world of trade. We are doing what we can to create a climate at home and an opportunity ahead to let Canadian business show its leadership. A lot of you are doing that already -- certainly in this province. That will become even more necessary in the new trading world we are entering.