

Look at the FTA. 70 per cent of Alberta's trade is with the United States. In opening our borders to free trade, Alberta's future prosperity will depend on our ability to succeed in that market. But I ask you, does it make sense to open our borders to trade and at the same time give a tax advantage to the opposition? Where is the logic in that? That is not responsibility and fairness in taxation. It is masochism.

The Goods and Services Tax will correct what's wrong with the existing sales tax. That's its only purpose. It is a replacement tax, not a new tax. It replaces a tax which punishes our exporters with one that puts our exporters on an even playing field with their foreign competition. It replaces a tax which rewards foreigners trying to get into our market with a tax which removes their unfair advantage. It replaces a tax full of loopholes with a tax which will be shared equitably and fairly across the economy and across the country.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, this tax reform will increase the growth of the Canadian economy. Because of the nature of the western Canadian economy, it will help us more than most.

That's because Alberta has an export-driven economy, which will be freed from the unfair advantage given to foreigners.

That's because Alberta has a resource-based economy, whose resource sector will no longer pay a tax on production equipment while foreigners escape without penalty.

And that's because Alberta has a capital intensive economy whose businesses will cease to pay a tax on the goods they need to build their products.

No longer will Nova Corporation, Bow Valley Resources or Alberta Natural Gas pay an extra tax on their transportation pipelines, their smaller trucks, or energy they use to get their product through the pipeline.

No longer will Willowglen Systems, Novatel or Myrias Research Corporation pay an extra tax on their building materials, their office equipment, their computer systems.

And no longer will Canfor, Millar Western or Alberta Newsprint pay an extra tax on the fuel they must use to get their forestry products to market.