

If a sense of community is really starting to develop among the countries that border on the Pacific, the way this is reflected in future institutional structures will be vital to multilateral cooperation and policy coordination. Canada has already taken a very active role in the examination of institutional development in the context of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee, and in the encouragement of a positive, future-oriented dialogue between the developed countries and the newly industrialized economies. I believe we must continue to be active in Pacific institution building, helping ensure that the institutions that emerge are vehicles through which we can pursue and promote our national interests, and project Canada as an important player in Pacific affairs.

Ladies and gentlemen, what I have outlined are not the definitive answers to how we manage ourselves on the Asian stage of tomorrow. They are simply some of the ideas that I believe we should be collectively examining as we build a national consensus on our Pacific future.

We will have to be creative, flexible and determined. The challenge is great, but the opportunities are tremendous. Together we can do great justice to our Pacific vocation, rooted in the past but poised to meet the future.