

makes the European Community, by a wide margin, the second largest of our trading partners -- and we are confident that the volume of trade between Canada and the Community will continue to grow. The figures speak for themselves. To Canada, a country heavily dependent on international trade, mutually beneficial dynamic relations with the European Community are vital.

In another very practical way, an expanding relationship with Europe is an essential feature of one of the governments' most fundamental policies. This is the policy to diversify -- to reduce the vulnerability of the Canadian economy to one continental market -- to maintain our freedom of action in the international scene -- and equally important to preserve and nourish our individuality.