

is needed is co-ordinated federal-provincial fiscal policy -- yet this is precisely what action three in the plan calls for! Let us read the plan before we shoot it down!

Finally, some critics seem to focus exclusively on what the federal government can do, should do, hasn't done or shouldn't do. This misses another central point that Canadians made in the consultations. They said that future prosperity cannot be built by the federal government alone. They understand that turning on the tap of short-term government spending just leaves us with a growing pile of debt, and no better equipped to compete in a global marketplace. Canadians said, in no uncertain terms, that we have to get past this mindset. This action plan does this by aiming at labour, management, business, educator, students, parents and -- yes -- the federal, provincial and local governments. It says all stakeholders must build prosperity -- together. I urge all Canadians to read the plan and start thinking about how we might all implement it. As far as the federal government is concerned, that is what we intend to do.

The services sector is a prime example of what we have done and can do. At last year's Services Conference you outlined for us a number of your priorities. We have taken action in those areas where we could proceed on our own. Let me give you a few examples.

You told us that international trade should be a priority. As you know, the C.D. Howe Institute has recently reported that services are one of the major winners in capitalizing upon opportunities provided by the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, specifically in taking advantage of the national treatment provisions of the agreement and improved entry provisions. A result is that sales of services to the U.S. jumped by 13 per cent in the first two years after the FTA was implemented. A wide range of services -- consulting, advertising, management services and communications services -- are reaping the rewards. Each of them are showing that Canadians have much to offer the toughly competitive U.S. services market. They are proving that we were right when we predicted that free trade would mean growth for innovative, forward-looking companies in Canada. We have now succeeded in extending the spirit of the FTA provisions on a trilateral basis in the North American Free Trade Agreement. We continue to press for similar freer market entry on a multilateral basis in the services provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) trade negotiations.

You told us to provide market information and to simplify trade promotion. We launched a comprehensive program to increase the export of services to the U.S. This new strategy targets geomatics, environmental, architectural, consulting engineering, information technology, transportation and health services.