

I intend to speak today about two particular countries -- yours and mine; two particular issues -- trade and pollution; and the lessons for the world in the way our two countries address those two issues.

I will spare you the usual rhetoric about Canada and the United States:

- the longest undefended border;
- the common commitment to defending freedom in war and extending it in peace;
- the trading relation that is the largest in the world -- you trade more with Canada than you do with Japan; more with us than with Europe; so do we with you.

Those are inescapable realities of our neighbourhood together in northern North America, both of us enjoying freedoms and opportunities most nations only dream of.

To some degree, our good fortune is good luck.

We are relatively young societies on rich land; free societies that grow from the ingenuity and independence of our citizens; located in a new continent, far from the conflicts and constraints of an older world, free to build our own future.

But the successes of Canada, the successes of the United States, are more than luck.

Our history is a record of reaching out -- you to build a new nation and start new traditions, we to unite communities across a continent and extend the best of old traditions.

We have grown in different ways, become quite different countries, but our method has been to reach out to opportunity, to face up to challenge.

Consider some examples.

We did not start the world wars which began 64 and 49 years ago. But we did not avoid them either. And our interventions, when they came, helped end those conflicts and restore freedoms and peace.

The decisions whether to participate and how to participate were not easily taken. In both our countries there were complex and sometimes divisive issues at stake.