

population of working age changes jobs each year. That's not something new, that's what is happening before a trade agreement in this country. Nearly half of the manufacturing firms active today did not exist a decade ago. We have decided to phase in the agreement over a ten year period and we've retained the full right to establish a safety net for any workers that are displaced. We didn't do this just to ensure that our workers and our firms learn to cope with the down side of economic change. That would be a wrong, faint-hearted attitude. Instead, we are giving Canadians the time they need to gear up and take advantage of the far greater opportunities provided by a changed economic environment.

I want to talk about one aspect of the arrangements concluded on Sunday. I want to talk about investment. The debate about investment is not new in Canada. Everyone agrees that Canada needs some control over foreign investment. We retain control under this agreement. That's not what's at issue. The issue is whether we control investment so tightly that we drive away people that want to make Canada grow, more precisely whether we drive away people that want to make Atlantic Canada and Western Canada and Northern Ontario grow. For years in this country we had a regime, the Foreign Investment Review Agency, FIRA, which cost Canada jobs and cost Canada growth. And the cost was highest in regions like our's which needed foreign investment most. I remember when the Foreign Investment Review Agency Act was being brought in. The Premier of this province went to Ottawa and made it clear to the committee, saying if that act of yours, dreamed up by people who were trying to protect New Brunswick against growth, if that act of yours takes away a single investment in this province of New Brunswick, we'll take you to court! There's always been debate about that kind of issue. Well, we ended FIRA, and taken other acts to attract investment and to attract the jobs that investment brings.

This agreement will attract more American investment. That means it will create more Canadian jobs, and indeed, create more of the growth in Canada that lets us do the things that guarantee our sovereignty, that lets us build a distinct society here in the northern half of North America. Growing economies can afford more expenditures on culture, on child care, on regional development, on help to our elderly, on the assertion of our claims in our North. Those are the benefits of growth. Those are the benefits of investment.

But there's another dimension to this argument - and it concerns how broadly you define the national interest. For this government, Canada's national interest involves the whole country, not just the rich parts of it. It involves Canadians who are out of work and want jobs, not just those who sit on the executive of powerful unions.