

Trilaterally, we are making good progress in creating a North American Commission on the Environment. This promises to be an important vehicle for dealing with environmental concerns at the ministerial level and for pursuing common goals.

Mexico has been demonstrating strong leadership in its efforts to protect the environment. We are pleased that you have discovered that Canadians are specialists in providing environmental services and products to aid in your efforts.

The work of several companies in Mexico is worth noting. Tecsalt International Limited of Montreal, Quebec, has had a relationship with Monterrey for the past 24 years. The firm completed its third update of the city's urban plan in 1991. It integrates engineering, architecture and urban planning at all levels, from the expansion of the city's public transportation system to the supply of drinking water.

Another Canadian company active in Mexico -- Goodfellow Consultants Inc. of Mississauga, Ontario -- is here today. Since 1986, the company has worked on nine projects involving environmental and occupational health in Mexico City, Veracruz, Puebla and Monterrey.

Reid Crowther of Vancouver, British Columbia, is no stranger to your growing city. The company was closely involved in the design and construction of Metrorrey, which I also visited today. They are also working with Mexico's state railways to reduce toxic waste in the cleansing of its locomotives.

You will have a further opportunity to view our environmental products at Pro-Eco '93, where we expect to have 25 exhibitors on hand. Pro-Eco is the third environmental conference and trade show to be hosted here in Monterrey.

Environmental standards worldwide are expected to become even more stringent in the future. Companies that become more innovative now will enjoy a competitive advantage in the global marketplace.

These goals have never been mutually exclusive. Now we realize that they are mutually dependent. I can say with confidence that Canadian companies in many other sectors can provide the services, as well as the knowledge-based products, that Mexico needs to build an infrastructure for the 21st century.

The NAFTA provisions on services will provide much of the momentum for closer co-operation through joint ventures and technology transfers. There are also provisions to open the Mexican market for sales of value-added telecommunications services, as well as specialty air services. The NAFTA also means substantial market opportunities and better access to