

Globalization

Globalization is here, it's upon us, and as Thomas Friedman says, "like it or hate it, it's not going away."

You'd be hard pressed to find a sector or community in any of our nations that is not feeling the effects of globalization.

Clearly, the pressure of stiff global competition, and the challenges of surviving in a world of incredibly efficient and competitive supply chains rooted in places like China, India, and the EU, are changing the way we do business.

We have no choice but to respond. Inward-looking protectionism is the proverbial "finger in the dike." It offers soothing short-term containment, but the dike ultimately gives way. It's not a viable strategy.

Fortunately, we in the Americas have also begun to respond.

At many levels—bilateral, trilateral, multilateral—we're beginning to transform our history as neighbours, partners and friends into economic opportunity for our people.

But we're barely scratching the surface.

Canada believes that being part of the Americas is a potentially huge competitive advantage.

As a group, we have an opportunity to create a competitive, integrated Western Hemispheric platform for trade and investment.

By working together and combining our strengths, we can all be stronger and more competitive.

Canada's response

Canada is responding to globalization with a global commerce strategy. Within that strategy, the Prime Minister has made the Americas a top priority.

We're committed to re-engaging relationships with our friends and partners throughout the hemisphere—in the United States, in Mexico, in the Caribbean and in Central and South America.

Our government's economic plan, Advantage Canada, commits and articulates a strategy for strengthening the foundation of our success—the North American platform.