

Canada's success and the success of the FTA depends on how competitive we are as a trading nation, not only in North America, but globally. A quarter of Canada's Gross Domestic Product is derived from trade. One in five Canadian jobs depends on it. We are among the great trading nations of the world. It's time for our business community to adjust to and profit from this fact of our existence. The future of the Canadian and world economies lies in trade liberalization.

The FTA has opened doors between Canada and the United States. It has unlocked opportunities for both countries. It has set the stage for our countries to participate in the trading world of the 21st century - a world that will demand energy, enthusiasm and creativity in developing and securing markets. I commend this gathering - this partnership of neighbours and friends - for demonstrating these very qualities that will bring success to both our countries.