

manufacturing sector, in particular, has done an excellent job in boosting its exports and improving its productivity.

The main challenge in Canada is to get our fiscal house in order. We shall greatly improve our gains on the trade front by improving our country's financial health. We are making progress. The recent federal budget takes far-reaching action to reduce government spending and to reshape the role of governments in building a stronger, yet more dynamic, Canadian economy.

As Alberta, a leader in fiscal responsibility, knows so well, fiscal pressures are causing all levels of government to streamline and co-ordinate their services. In the particular case of international trade and investment, technology and global awareness are also changing the role that governments play in assisting business in the international marketplace.

As Canadians work toward more fiscally responsible government, services provided to our exporters by the federal and provincial governments need further co-ordination and rationalization. For example, in the case of market intelligence, the federal government is improving the provision of timely feedback to Canadian companies on international business opportunities. We are doing so by putting in place readily accessible, advanced technology information services that gather up-to-the-minute trade leads from our posts abroad and provide them to the provinces and to business, especially smaller companies.

But such streamlining in the area of international trade development is not an easy task in Canada where, in addition to the federal government, no fewer than 10 provinces, two territories and several regional governments and municipalities have all involved themselves in international trade development, technology transfers, strategic alliances, tourism and investment. Although I welcome such widespread interest and commitment, I remain concerned that it can result in wasteful duplication.

Canadian trade missions need to be further co-ordinated among various levels of government to avoid confusion, not least among our potential customers. Only when all levels of government and business get together, can we make the greatest impact. The "Trade Team Canada" mission to China was a good example of how we can mobilize federal and provincial resources for the benefit of our whole country. As Premier Klein will be able to testify, the Chinese may have been a little overwhelmed by the arrival of our "Trade Team Canada," but they were never in any doubt why we were there. Equally, Premier Klein's mission to the Middle East in June is a good example of the federal government and a province working together to achieve maximum effect.