

TEN YEARS AGO, CANADA'S TRANS-PACIFIC IMMIGRATION SURPASSED OUR TRANS-ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY. TWO YEARS AGO, OUR PACIFIC TRADE SURPASSED OUR ATLANTIC TRADE, FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN 1979, AN EARLIER, SHORTER-LIVED PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CANADA AND THE PACIFIC RIM.

THAT GOVERNMENT, LIKE THIS ONE, CONTAINED LEADING MINISTERS FROM WESTERN CANADA, WHO KNOW HOW MUCH OF OUR FUTURE LIES TO OUR WEST. FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, CANADA HAS BEEN A PACIFIC NATION IN GEOGRAPHY, AND WE INTEND TO MAKE IT A PACIFIC NATION IN MENTALITY TOO.

THAT REQUIRES CONCRETE PACIFIC INITIATIVES, AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT FOUR OF THEM.

WE ARE OPENING NEW TRADE OFFICES IN THE PACIFIC RIM. ONE IS ALREADY OPERATING IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND. WE ARE OPENING A CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI, AND DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF TRADE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS STATIONED IN BEIJING. IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, WE WILL OPEN A CONSULATE GENERAL IN OSAKA, WITH A SPECIAL MANDATE TO PROMOTE TRADE AND FACILITATE TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES. WE ARE ASSIGNING A TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TO THE EMBASSY IN TOKYO, AND ARE INTRODUCING A NEW "TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS AND ACQUISITION PROGRAM," TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR MISSIONS IN ADVANCED