

Past rounds of multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT HAVE BROUGHT THE BENEFITS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION TO BOTH COUNTRIES. AND EACH MULTILATERAL ROUND HAS, IN EFFECT, AMOUNTED TO A SERIES OF MINI-BILATERAL ROUNDS IN WHICH THE CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT HAS ALWAYS SERVED AS A SIGNIFICANT BUILDING BLOCK TO THE LARGER RESULTS WHICH HAVE FOSTERED OUR POST-WAR POSPERITY.

THE UNDERLYING REASONS FOR SEEKING A NEW TRADING RELATIONSHIP ARE CLEAR. THERE IS NOW A COMMON BROADLY SHARED UNDERSTANDING THAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS IS BY NO MEANS INEVITABLE. WE HAVE DEVELOPED A GROWING AWARENESS THAT OUR ECONOMIES ARE CONFRONTING RAPIDLY CHANGING COMPETITIVE CHALLENGES THAT WILL TAX THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF GOVERNMENT, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND LABOUR FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

WE HAVE BOTH BEEN STRUCK CLOSE TO HOME BY THE HARSH REALITIES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE SOCIAL WASTE THAT BRINGS. WE ARE BOTH CONFRONTED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT SIGNIFICANT PROPORTIONS OF OUR YOUTH MAY NEVER SEE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT UNLESS WE COLLECTIVELY MEET THE CHALLENGES THAT ADJUSTMENT BRINGS. AND IT IS IN THIS SENSE THAT ECONOMIC RENEWAL IS NOT ONLY A COMPELLING OBJECTIVE SHARED BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS BUT A CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL.