

NAFTA is one component of the federal government's trade and competitiveness agenda. On the trade side, that agenda includes GATT, the FTA and our efforts to improve trade relations with the Pacific Rim. We have one international trade agenda, even if we are pursuing it in different forums. We will advance our interests wherever we find an opportunity to do so. Within the multifaceted configuration of Canadian trade policy, the NAFTA will have an important role to play in our continuing effort to open markets around the world for Canadian goods and services. But we will succeed only with the help and support of people like you in the private sector.

I am particularly grateful for the opportunity provided by the Council of the Americas and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to speak here tonight. Thank you.