

And rather than trading goods at arm's length, Canadian firms, large and small, are investing, establishing joint ventures, installing Canadian-designed technology and, in summary, establishing multi-faceted business ties that place Canada firmly inside the Chinese market.

It is to assist these companies – and their employees and the many Canadian communities in which they are based – that trade agreements are negotiated.

Achieving China's accession to the World Trade Organization is therefore a matter of high priority for Canada. In the long run, it is inconceivable that a nation, constituting one-fifth of the world's population, which in the next century may become the world's largest economy, should not be part of this key world institution.

Just as it was unthinkable, 25 years ago, that China would remain outside the United Nations, it is equally preposterous – especially in today's increasingly integrated global economy – that China should remain for long outside the World Trade Organization. Twenty-five years ago, Canada played a leadership role in helping China reintegrate within the community of nations. Today, we hope to play a similarly constructive role in achieving China's reintegration within the evolving multilateral trading system.

Thank you.