

revenues on energy resources.

Now we face a new kind of challenge. The question is - do we have the will to rekindle the spirit, and make the most of our new opportunities?

The title of your conference is Global Marketplaces - from the Alberta Perspective. I applaud your interest and encourage you to push forward.

It is clear to all who study what is going on today that the Canadian economy is inextricably linked to the international economy. Every region of Canada depends on exporting to foreign markets - from lumber and fish in Atlantic Canada, transportation equipment in Quebec, automotive parts in Ontario, oil and gas here in Alberta and lumber and lumber products in British Columbia - virtually all of our industries depend on our sales in foreign markets.

That is why our government has set an aggressive trading strategy - targetted on many fronts - as a priority. Our domestic market is not large, and therefore we are highly dependent on exports. It is vital that we improve our competitive position in the world.

Three-quarters of our entire trade is with the U. S., but there are storm clouds on that relationship. We have all seen the results of some of the strong protectionist forces in the United States. There have been proposals in the U. S. Congress which would result in hundreds of restrictions on the entry of goods to the American market.

A new Canada/U. S. trade arrangement has long been a priority with the Province of Alberta. Now the Federal Government has launched formal negotiations with the U. S. - negotiations aimed at securing the markets we now have, at stopping the protectionist forces on both sides of the border, and at increasing the opportunities to expand our trade.

A new trade deal offers Canada the prospect of new jobs resulting from greater and more secure access to a market of 235 million people. A 10 percent increase in our trade with the U. S. would result in approximately 250,000 new jobs, or a 2 percent drop in the unemployment rate.