

In fact, it was precisely during that period, of economic agreements with the United States, that we developed the social and cultural programs that make Canada distinctive - Medicare, the Pension Plan, the Canada Council.

The Free Trade Agreement expands the coverage and updates the mechanisms of earlier trade agreements, but it places no new limits on Canadian sovereignty. In fact, the practical effect on sovereignty is to extend it. Trade brings us wealth. And wealth lets us pay for new social programs, new cultural initiatives, new ways to express the distinctive identity of Canadians. There would be no Canada without trade. Our land was discovered by traders. We were developed by trading companies - that is what the Hudson Bay Company was; that is why the Coureur des bois went West.

One out of every three jobs in Canada today depends on trade, and as the world becomes more connected, more competitive, our future depends on trade. The Canada-US Agreement is one important step in the process that lets us speak as Canadians. There are other steps.

For example, Canada is a leading member of the countries trying to establish new rules for trade among all nations in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. That is the way of the modern world. You have to agree on rules with other countries because no nation is alone. That is why we signed treaties to protect the ozone. That is why we send peacekeeping troops to the United Nations; why we seek trade agreements. We are part of the world. We can be leaders in it. That is the Canadian tradition - part of our identity and pride.

That is why I was so surprised to turn on my television the other night to see Ed Broadbent telling senior citizens in Edmonton that Free Trade spelled the end of Medicare. A few days later, he was telling Nova Scotians that Free Trade was the end of Regional Development Policy. Both of these statements are false, and Mr. Broadbent knows they are false.

The opponents of the Trade Agreement are not talking about Trade. They know this is a sensible economic agreement that will help bring new jobs and growth to Canada. So, in an election campaign, they are raising false fears about questions that have nothing to do with the Trade Agreement. I want to take some time tonight to deal with these fears.