

- You will have to adjust to the realities that the plan is designed to address, whether you do so in the context of meeting the objectives of the plan or not.

I know from my discussions with Canadians that they are looking for a report that no one in Canada can ignore. They are especially interested in ensuring that the plan of action includes an explanation of how government actions can support and reinforce the actions being taken by the private and non-governmental public sectors. Canadians have high expectations of this process. They will not accept anything less than a national commitment to implementing the plan of action. But the fact is that the success or failure of this process is not entirely in their hands, just as it is not entirely in the hands of the federal government.

I want to conclude with a few words about the process following this conference from the government's perspective.

I know the Steering Group is planning to publish the plan of action in September. I don't yet know what the report will contain. No one does -- though you are playing a key role in developing it. I can say that -- so far as the federal government is concerned -- we are prepared to take bold steps to implement the product of this yearlong consultation process.

But, whether governments follow every action to the nth degree is not going to amount to very much, if the major players on the economic scene stand back and hold our coats! The goal of building a prosperous future for Canada in a rapidly changing economic environment cannot be met by government alone.

That is why I am here to solicit not simply your input into the process -- a process to which thousands of Canadians have already contributed their time and energy. Its success will depend on it being practical -- and this can be one of your key contributions.

I am also looking for your commitment to implementing the plan of action when it is published. Canada needs this action plan to secure for its future generations the kind of prosperity that this generation regarded as its birthright. If it is to succeed, everyone needs to get off the bench and get into the game. So Canadians need your leadership to help them make this plan the heart of our long-term strategy to secure a prosperous future.

Canada needs your commitment, and I am convinced that you will come through for her.

Thank you.