

Through consultations, we developed a co-operative framework that will permit the provinces to commit themselves to these agreements. It is our hope and expectation that they will choose to participate.

It is clear that all the provinces have an interest in seeing the labour and environment agreements work. Their participation will add an important dimension to the North American partnership.

The NAFTA and these side agreements represent a constructive model of countries working together for a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous world.

All Canadians have a stake in protecting the North American environment and contributing to good working conditions for all North Americans, now and in the future.

The new path of co-operation on which we embark today was made possible by the NAFTA itself. The trade agreement was the catalyst for these agreements.

I am proud of Canada's accomplishments at the bargaining table.

As with the NAFTA itself, I am proud to recommend these groundbreaking environment and labour agreements to the people of Canada.