

During my visits to Mexico in the last year, I have seen increasing numbers of Canadian firms actively seeking sales there. I have also seen the heightened interest in other Latin American markets that, I believe, is largely inspired by the new trade frontier we are opening with Mexico.

And let's not forget the real winners in a free trade agreement: Canadian consumers. They benefit from lower prices and a greater variety of products and services.

There are exciting times ahead.

The tabling of the NAFTA legislation today marks an important moment in Canadian history.

Through the open and democratic parliamentary process, all Canadians will have ample time to examine the NAFTA and listen to the debate.

I believe they will conclude this is the right course for Canada.