

accord; I disagree with them. I think the agreement is a very good agreement; I think it should be supported.

We have a compromise here that is probably unique in Canadian history. We have a prime minister, ten premiers, three federal political parties, two territorial leaders and five leaders from the Aboriginal communities, all in agreement. The leaders involved represent four Conservative, four liberal and three NDP governments. I don't think that such a consensus has ever occurred before in our history.

This referendum, I believe, is about three things: the economy, the economy and the economy. It is extremely important to the economic future of this country to get a "yes" vote on the referendum.

The Charlottetown agreement means good news for the economy. A "yes" in the referendum will let us get down to the real economic priorities in every region. Governments will be able to work together on economic growth, cost-cutting and better services. This is what Canadians clearly want and deserve to have.

Constitutional peace means that businesses and workers can focus on making companies healthier and jobs more secure. Investors want to know what the future holds before they put money into our economy.

Ending the constitutional wrangling, whatever fine-tuning may be needed, will mean the end of year after year of paralysing negotiation, which has kept us from dealing with other important matters.

Settling the new roles of the provinces, territories, Aboriginal peoples, the federal government, the Senate and the House of Commons is the key step in making serious constitutional wrangling a thing of the past. The plan set out in the Charlottetown agreement is a key element in reshaping Canada, to give it back its true nature, that of a dynamic country of compromise, care and understanding, ending, by the same token, a number of years of confrontation and divisiveness.

A "yes" vote on the 26th also means a promising, certain future for our young people. Today's young people are already facing enough challenges, without having more constitutional paralysis and economic uncertainty added on. Let's help them by settling the constitutional issue and by working to build more and more economic opportunities for them in the future.

But let's say it is rejected -- what then?