

News Release

Communiqué

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

No. 258

December 30, 1988.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT GOES INTO EFFECT

ON JANUARY 1, 1989

International Trade Minister, John C. Crosbie, today announced that with the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act having received royal assent, Canada and the United States will proceed with an exchange of diplomatic notes in Washington and Ottawa on December 31, 1988, in order to bring the Free Trade Agreement into effect on January 1, 1989.

"The debate on Free Trade has stirred deep emotions in Canada," said Minister Crosbie. "It caused Canadians to examine themselves as a people and their place in the world."

"Years from now, I believe it will be said of this generation of Canadians that we made the right choice, that by choosing Free Trade we not only adopted better rules for trade with the U.S., we also affirmed our belief in a strong and sovereign Canada," said Mr. Crosbie.

"Free Trade yields clear advantages and creates new opportunities, but these of themselves do not guarantee greater success for enterprises in Canada," said Mr. Crosbie. "I hope and believe that Canadians will work together to build on these opportunities, to the benefit of our nation. That is the task now before us."

Attached is an outline of important changes that will occur when the Free Trade Agreement goes into effect.

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