



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

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MINISTER KELLEHER DEFENDS CANADIAN EXPORTS

The Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade, today told the House of Commons that the Government is fighting U.S. actions aimed at Canadian imports.

The Government is seeking to negotiate new rules to provide "the certainty and security of access to the U.S. market which Canadian producers need to plan and invest", said the International Trade Minister. "There are two avenues along which negotiations can take place. One is bilateral, with our trading partner. The other is multilateral, under the GATT. This Government is pursuing both avenues".

Responding to the threat of another U.S. countervailing duty action on Canadian softwood lumber, the Minister noted that "this Government is prepared to take all appropriate actions to defend Canadian interests".

The Honourable James Kelleher concluded by pointing to the necessity for trade talks with the U.S. "This Government has launched a major initiative to negotiate a better framework for the conduct of our trade relations".

"A key objective of these negotiations will be to negotiate better rules to resolve our disputes. These include rules to assure that countervailing duty actions do not impede our exports to the United States".

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