

This is just a sampling. Canadian steel is under recurrent threat. So is sugar. And fish. And salt. And raspberries. And blueberries. And on, and on and on. There is even talk in the United States now of imposing surcharges on all imports, and that would be a severe blow to our economy. It has been estimated that a 10% reduction in our exports alone could throw a quarter of a million Canadians out of work. Even when the Congress takes aim at someone else (such as Japan), Canadian exports can be adversely affected.

So we have a threat we cannot ignore. Canada can't afford to lose those jobs, or to have them continue under constant threat. The arrangements we have now are not good enough. We need something better just to preserve Canadian jobs.

We also need the opportunity to review other American practices which limit Canadian opportunities. "Buy America" restrictions force Canadian companies to move to the United States in order to sell in that country. That is why Bombardier had to move a plant to Vermont to supply subway cars to New York. Much of our trade is tariff-free. Trade in other commodities such as petrochemicals is virtually prohibited by American tariffs. Restrictive trade practices, aimed at other countries often side-swipe Canada, as they have on steel. We need a better mechanism for settling disputes, and for calculating what is really a subsidy, on either side of the border.