



SECURING ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET

Under international agreements, all industrial nations have trade laws which allow them to protect themselves from imports dumped at unfair prices or unfairly subsidized. And countries also have the right to take emergency action to protect industries which face serious injury from even fair competition.

Canada itself has such laws and has taken action on many occasions to penalize unfair trade practices and to protect industries from being overwhelmed. The right of countries to use such laws is not in question. But the manipulation of them can threaten even the closest trading relationship.

Most Canadian and American trade flows freely and without dispute across our border. But access to the United States market has become increasingly insecure for many Canadian exporters in recent years because of protectionist actions taken against them under U.S. trade laws. Canadian jobs have been lost as a result and the economic environment has become much less certain.

At Canada's insistence, the Agreement contains measures to limit this uncertainty and restore the rule of law in commerce between the two countries. It will prevent the use of trade laws as instruments of unwarranted protection. It will allow Canadian exporters to compete in the U.S. market on a more secure, predictable and equitable footing.

This is vital to Canadian producers. It will give them the confidence to make the investments needed to take full advantage of