

- Part III contains a provision that the Bill, once enacted, will not be brought into force unless the Governor in Council is satisfied that the United States and Mexico have taken satisfactory steps to implement the Agreement.

### NAFTA APPROVAL PROCESS

#### **Formal signature of the NAFTA**

The North American Free Trade Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the Presidents of the United States and Mexico on December 17, 1992.

#### **The process in Canada**

##### Parliamentary Process

The Government presented the necessary implementing legislation to Parliament on Thursday, February 25, 1993, and it received First Reading in the House of Commons.

The Second Reading allows for substantive debate of the principle and object of the Bill. If the Bill is adopted at Second Reading, it is then referred to a legislative committee for clause-by-clause study.

On Third Reading, the House considers any proposed amendments to the Bill. The House then votes on the legislation. Once the Bill is passed by the House of Commons, it is sent to the Senate for consideration. If the Bill is passed by the Senate without amendment, it is deemed ready for Royal Assent. If the Bill is amended, it is returned to the House of Commons, where it must again be debated and voted on.

Once the Bill is approved and proclaimed in force, Canada will be in a position to exchange letters of ratification with the U.S. and Mexico. Ratification of the NAFTA, which is part of the treaty-making process, is an executive act accomplished by an Order-in-Council.